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and stretch!
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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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Brazilian pirate rolls into town

By Bai Jingnan
Audiences everywhere fell in love with Forrest Gump, Tom Hanks's star character, in the same-titled 1994 movie. A new "Gump" came to Guaxia Street, Dongcheng district, at noon Tuesday atop a "Harley-style" bicycle, looking like a pirate.

The man, a Brazilian whose real name is Alexandre, rode his modified bike all over Europe and Asia since 2003, his little dog in tow. Alexandre said he doesn't know why he travels, but that he is just looking "for fun, for people, for everything." He compared himself to Forrest Gump, running forever on the road.



CFP Photo



Photo provided by Google

The office survival guide

May Day is a time for workers everywhere to score some time away from the shackles of the office. This week, Beijing Today has a series on the office, so you can return to work Monday, armed with the tools to get the most from the other half of your life.

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好运北京
GOOD LUCK BEIJING

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Third rail official dismissed for train crash

Another high-ranking railway official was sacked Tuesday in response to the deadly train collision on Monday that killed 70 and injured 416 in east China's Shandong Province.

Guo Jiguang, former executive deputy director of the Jinan Railway Bureau, was dismissed and subject to investigation by the Ministry of Railways, Liu Zhijun, railways minister, told an early morning emergency meeting.

Two other officials with the Jinan Railway Bureau – Chen Gong, former director and Chai Tiemin, former Party secretary – were reportedly fired Monday.

The T195 high-speed train from Beijing to Qingdao veered off the rails in Zibo city at about 4:40 a.m. Monday. The derailed coaches smashed into train 5034, which was

approaching in the opposite direction along an adjacent track.

Investigators said Monday that the T195 was traveling at 131 kilometers per hour before the accident, far in excess of the section's speed limit of 80 kilometers per hour.

Wang Jun, director of the State Administration of Work Safety, who headed an investigation panel established on Tuesday, vowed there would be a "comprehensive, scientific, fair and objective" investigation into the accident.

"Experts with the panel will investigate the rail bed, trains and the train operating system and check for violations of safety rules," he said. "Those found responsible will be severely punished according to the law."

As of Tuesday, the identities of 26 dead are confirmed. Wang



Cleanup is still underway at the T195 wreckage. CFP Photo

said all the injured have been hospitalized and the dead have been transferred to local funeral

homes. The accident site has been cleaned up, and the stranded passengers evacuated. (Xinhua)

Colleges required to budget for birth control

By Li Fenghua

According to new Guidelines on Birth Control in Beijing's Colleges and Universities, student birth control expenses must be included in their respective schools' budgets. Budgets directors are required to allocate expenses based on enrollment.

The students include those from professional training colleges, undergraduate, graduate and PhD candidates. College graduates whose hukou is still held by their school are not included in the program.

Free birth control service for married students is a basic welfare provided by the government, and the burden of expense has to be borne by the college or university's financial systems, according to the guidelines.

Reimbursement of check-up and childbirth costs of married female students will be handled by each school on its own. Schools must allocate more money for birth control expenses if they have high enrollment or high control requirements.

According to the guidelines, there must be at least one birth control director for more than 5,000 students. Two directors are required if there are more than 10,000.

The child can have Beijing hukou if one of his parents has permanent Beijing hukou. If one of the parents has permanent hukou outside of Beijing, then the child will also be hukou-ed outside of Beijing.

"The regulations on birth control services remain under scrutiny. Because most of the students who give birth to babies are graduate students, the teachers from the graduate school will be partly responsible for birth control work," a Peking University staff member said.

"Tsinghua University has more than 30,000," a staff member from the Information department of Tsinghua University said. "The financial department and student administration and birth control department are discussing such problems to try to work out a plan as soon as possible."

New screens direct CBD parking



As many as 343 electronic screens to guide in parking will be installed in the city's CBD. The screens will display information on parking spots and fees. The system will be operational by the end of the month. Most screens are located on the main street.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

Smokers face fines for lighting up

By Zhang Dongya

Police are appointing more than 100,000 people to be assistant inspectors in enforcing the city's ban on smoking in public places which took effect yesterday.

People caught smoking in forbidden areas will face a minor fine of 10 yuan, while enterprises and other units that violate the ban will be fined between 1,000 and 5,000 yuan.

More than 1,000 people have been trained as inspectors to enforce the ban by Beijing's Committee of Patriotic Public Health, while another 100,000 people have been appointed as inspectors by the city's enterprises and institutions.

Inspectors are expected to stop smokers who light up in forbidden areas and provide the

receipts when issuing a fine, Sun Xianli, vice director of the Beijing Committee of Patriotic Public Health Campaign, said.

As many as 90 percent of residents polled support the smoking ban, according to a survey conducted by the *China Youth Daily* and *sina.com.cn*. Also, 52 percent of smokers agreed with the ban while 37 percent opposed it.

The proposed ban was altered last month to exempt restaurants, bars and Internet cafes from the list of forbidden places in response to concerns expressed by business owners. These places will only have to provide non-smoking seating, according to the new regulations.

In addition, a new regulation to ban smoking is under investigation by the Beijing Committee

of Patriotic Public Health Campaign, Committee Director Rao Yingsheng's said on Monday.

"Different from the ban on May 1, this new regulation, which is a part of Beijing's local legislation, will increase the fine on people and enterprises that violate the ban," Rao said. "People caught smoking will be fined between 200 and 1,000 yuan, and enterprises will be fined between 30,000 and 40,000 yuan."

The new regulation will take effect within two years, and public places will completely ban smoking from 2010 on, according to the Beijing Municipal Government's plans.

The capital banned smoking in taxis last October, and the country has pledged to ensure a smoke-free, Green Olympics.

Chengguan leaders condemn Nanjing colleagues

By Li Fenghua

Nearly 300 police officers in charge of urban administration, also called Chengguan, from all over China gathered Saturday for a forum to condemn the brutal acts their Nanjing colleagues did last month. The forum promised polite enforcement of the law, to reshape the image of Chengguan.

Zheng Yi and Wang Qi, two Nanjing residents, were eating at 9 pm, April 23, at a street vendor's cart. Several Chengguan came up to the vendor and demanded he move his tables.

Zheng and Wang were angry at how rude the Chengguan were and made a few snide remarks about them. The Chengguan called dozens of their coworkers to the bar to brutally beat the two men.

Wang tried to defend himself by striking out at one of the Chengguan. Several Chengguan rushed at him at once, and he was dragged out of the bar within seconds.

Zheng received a lesser beating than Wang, his face scratched and his head requiring multiple stitches.

Two days after the incident, the Internet was abuzz with criticism of Nanjing's Chengguan, accusing them of using force more brutal than the situation required.

News about Chengguan's use of brutal tactics has dotted newspaper headlines over the last year. Internet discussion has focused on accusation of cities appointing unqualified Chengguan, or Chengguan obtaining their positions illegally and their spotty enforcement records. Many netizens suggest dissolving the Chengguan system.

"There are problems with the Chengguan system. But we have to be rational and cannot sympathize with the weak. Polite enforcement of the law is not only an expectation of the Chengguan, but of society in general," Xiong Wenzhao, a professor from the law school of Central University for Nationalities, said.

Brief news

Total jailed over Lhasa violence rises to 30

A further 13 people were sentenced on Tuesday afternoon, bringing the number of people imprisoned at present for involvement in the March 14 riot to 30. It was the first batch of sentences announced since the March 14 violence in which 18 people and one policeman died.

Cancer, stroke top killers

Malignant tumors and stroke have become the top two killers, according to the Ministry of Health Tuesday. The two were responsible for nearly half of the 1.3 million deaths in 2004 and 2005 based on a nationwide survey.

Freeze in store for tourist ticket fees

Tourism spots across the country were told to freeze ticket prices for the next year under orders from several ministries. But the eight ministries said tourism spots could lower prices.

(By Han Manman)

Rural children sold as South China slaves

By Annie Wei

Child workers, all from Liangshan, Sichuan Province, and under age 16, were reportedly coaxed away from their families and sold to Dongguan, Guangdong Province, factories, where they worked in slave-like conditions.

Liangshan police were sent to Dongguan to rescue the children as of press time.

Nanfang Daily, a Guangdong-based newspaper, had an article this week saying that these children were beaten, scolded or starved, with some young girls being raped.

According to the article, the children described long hours with too much work and no pay. The foreman threatened to kill any children who spoke of escape, the *Nanfang Daily* reported.

A foreman told undercover journalists from the *Nanfang Daily* that Dongguan was the center of their business. "Our employees are everywhere, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Huizhou and Jiangmen," he said.

Hundreds of children with nothing but basins and blankets gathered outside a small supermarket in Dongguan, waiting to be selected for factory work.

A resident who lived in the area for three years said it was not even the peak of sales. "The children are sold like cabbages on the streets of Dongguan," he said, referring to the several load trucks of children

shipped there every day in November and December.

Someone surnamed Wang from a local employment office said 60 percent of workers in the area were children from Liangshan, Sichuan Province. The workers came from the areas are cheap at 2.5 to 3.8 yuan per hour, and worked hard with no request for social benefits.

An assistant foreman told *Nanfang Daily*'s reporter that there were more than 100 children like those ones living in one small inn, waiting for jobs. The foremen easily changed the recorded ages of the children to avoid inspectors.

The article said local foremen used their connections in the local labor bureaus to avoid being caught. The children were forced to work 12-15 hour days to maximize profit. The foreman gave each child 10 yuan per day as living allowance, with 5 yuan for rent and 5 yuan for food. Many of the children had to subsist exclusively on steamed bread for days.

Liangshan is a remote and poor area in central China. Dongguan is known as China's manufacturing capital, and it demands a huge amount of labor. The families in Liangshan let their children go with the foremen to bolster household income.

Regulations in Dongguan stipulate that the minimum wage is 4.4 yuan per hour, most of the families earned less than 500 yuan per month, the article said.



Child laborers were treated as slaves. Photo provided by Nanfang Daily

80-year-old convict can serve sentence at home

By Li Fenghua

Wang Guichen, a peasant from Beijing's Yanqing county, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison, was told he could serve his sentence at home last Monday.

The Yanqing Court of Justice said it approved the change of venue in light of Wang's old age and deteriorating health.

Wang was convicted of killing his wife when he set his home on fire in a suicide attempt.

Every afternoon, the Yanqing Court of Justice and Zhangshanying Police Station sends an officer to monitor Wang's activity. Since he is 80 years old, no strict supervision is needed, the court said.

Wang and his wife adopted a son, Wang Ming 40 years ago. After Wang Ming married, the couple frequently fought.

The old couple was very disappointed at the young couple's behavior, and they decided to commit suicide last December. Wang's wife could not stand the pain of the fire and asked Wang to kill her first. He killed her with an iron pipe, and escaped from the fire.

Yu Shuwen, in charge of Wang's case, found Wang in serious condition. He couldn't comprehend what the judge was saying or express himself.

Teenage girls shock netizens with 'sexy' photo album

By Jackie Zhang

Netizens have been arguing over what to do about a new group of photos taken by girls under the age of 18 as part of their "middle school graduation album."

Jun'ao, a concerned netizen, first posted about the girls' photos last Thursday. Several days ago, he found a digital photo album on a teenage girl's Web site. "This site is for posting sexy photos, and all the girls in the pictures are teenagers. There are over 100 photos."

Jun'ao talked with the owners of the Web site. He said the girls said they were influenced by some movie and the Edison Chen sex

photo scandal. Each wanted to have a special digital graduation album called *No Regrets Over Youth*.

The 150 or more girls who participated provided naked or half-naked photos. At first, the organizer did not set a key code for the album. She said she didn't care whether the photos were seen by others.

Jun'ao was surprised by these photos and the girls' unconcerned attitude. "I think some parents must attach importance to the negative influence that the Internet brings to their children. Maybe someday your child will be in these photos," Jun'ao said.

Many people agreed with Jun'ao

and wrote online that the Edison Chen sex photo scandal had negatively influenced young people.

At the same time, others doubted whether the girls in these photos were actually teenage students.

Some social psychologists and educators suggested this phenomenon reflects the impulsive and "overly-open" characteristics of present day youth. Parents and teachers are expected to protect children from negative influences. Some experts were quoted by *Yangtze Evening Post* as saying people should be tolerant of the girls' behavior.

Qingdao frescoes to be country's biggest



Some of the frescoes are already complete.

Xinhua Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Qingdao, Shandong Province, has recently started to paint frescoes on the buildings along its pedestrian street. The 17 buildings with frescoes will become the largest group of painted buildings in the country when completed.

The series of frescoes is themed on the Olympic Games and the ocean. The painting materials are non-toxic and non-odorous, as well as waterproof and rated for durability.

The project, started last Wednesday, will continue until the middle of June.

Nursing maids say pay too low to support

By Annie Wei

Seriously ill patients in Haidian district hospitals were short on care Tuesday when hundreds of nursing workers went on strike to get a wage increase.

The strike lasted 11 hours. The nursing services company managers refused the nurses' request and agreed to pay for anyone who wanted to quit.

The local *Beijing Youth Daily* reported this was the fifth strike this year by the capital's nursing workers over wages.

Xu, a 50-year-old woman from outside Beijing has worked as a nurse for six years.

The company charges its patients 65 yuan per day for 24-hour nursing service. Xu receives 70 percent of the pay: 45 yuan. Xu said it is not enough money for 24-hour service without holiday pay.

She has two daughters currently enrolled in school, and the dramatic inflation this year has put a severe pinch on her family. The company does not provide nurses with any food, and the hospital's cafeteria is far too expensive, she said.

Wang Chuyang, manager of Beijing Afu Nursing Service, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that due to the caps on what their service can cost and the revenue that it generates, it cannot pay its workers more.

Most nursing services in Beijing cost 60-70 yuan per day, and 70 percent of the money is paid to the nurses. The remaining 30 percent covers management costs and any legal battles the company experiences.

Nursing service companies complain that the industry is too competitive. To get hospitals to select their service, they have to pay off the hospitals with a certain management fee.

"No insurance company is willing to cover our accident insurance," another company said. When an accident happens, the company is forced to spend several months' profit.

Wang, the manager of a nursing service company, said the company's profit margin is between 5-10 percent.

Other service companies said they could not offer extra work hours to employees. The only way to make more money is to charge patients more, and many patients already complain that medical fees are too steep.

Nursing workers were first employed in the capital in the early 1990s. Initially, the nurses were required to wait outside the hospitals to get work. Nurses are still not regulated as a professional career in China.

By Han Manman

The number of children stricken by an intestinal virus in Fuyang, Anhui Province has risen to over 1,500 with 20 children dead. The Anhui government warns that the current outbreak may be just the beginning.

Virus kills 20 children

Infection could be just the start

On April 28, in Fuyang's Yingdong district, Li Dianxia and her husband were busy taking care of their eight-month-old grandson Jiajia (anonym) while his parents were working in another city. The old couple was very concerned about the sick baby's fever that refused to break.

Jiajia was not alone in contracting this strange disease. Their symptoms were identical, a slight fever followed by blisters and ulcers in the mouth and rashes on their hands and feet. However, no one knew what the virus was until April 25 when it was officially diagnosed as Enterovirus 71, or EV71.

"The current outbreak may be just the beginning," a statement issued by the department of health in Anhui Province Tuesday stated. "We cannot exclude the possibility that the virus will spread further."

The EV 71 has not yet been put on the mandatory reporting list of infectious diseases, Qi Xiaoqiu, director of the health ministry's disease control and prevention department, told a press conference Tuesday. The ministry now considered it as an emergency public health incident that needed to be reported, Qi said.

"In accordance with the virus' outbreak in the past few years, we are considering how to further strengthen the management and surveillance of the disease," he said.

Ten million yuan in special treatment funds have been sent by the Anhui government and 35 experts were also dispatched from nearby Hunan and Hubei provinces to help cure patients. Progress is being made in researching the virus and its treatment.

Incorrect information

Sixteen children were found to be infected by the EV 71, but after being treated, all of the children recovered, Ma Jianzhong, director of the department of Health of Henan Province, said in a Tuesday news conference.

However, Rao Keqin of the Health Ministry's statistics information center said media companies report that the virus has spread to neighboring provinces are false.

"It has not yet been confirmed that the cause of the Henan's EV 71 case is the same as the Anhui case. So, we can't say the virus has spread to Henan," Rao said.

Evasive virus

In a bid to stop the virus, which has killed 20, from spreading to more children, all kindergartens in Fuyang, began May Day holiday two days earlier.

Du Changzhi, the Anhui Provincial Health Department's deputy chief, said the seven-day holiday will help the recessive infector get through the latent period safely and avoid further infections. Du said the virus had infected 1,520 children, claiming 20 lives by Tuesday morning.

Of the sick, 585 have recovered. At present, 412 sick children remain in hospital for further medical observation. Of them, 26 are seriously ill.

All of the victims were aged under six, with the majority being under the age of two. The children developed fever, blisters and ulcers in the mouth, or rashes on their hands and feet. Severe cases resulted in brain, heart and lung damage.

The Ministry of Health sent a team in mid-April, and they have been working with health workers to find the cause of the infections, however, the cause is not yet known.

Schools, kindergartens and villages are being inspected for hygiene, and the government has earmarked 3 million yuan for the control and prevention of the deadly virus.

Workers have been organized to disinfect the major areas where many infections were found, and to destroy sources of infectious intestinal diseases and parasites, including eradicating mosquitoes.

Anhui authorities also set up a province-wide daily reporting system to monitor the lethal virus.

In denial

The Fuyang health authority Tuesday denied that the local government delayed reporting the disease to its superiors. The denial was in response to wide criticism on the Internet and media reports that the delay led to panic, causing the best opportunities for treatment to be missed.

Authorities in Fuyang have never seen such an epidemic before and the city lacks the lab equipment to identify such viruses, Wan Junfeng, deputy director of Fuyang's Disease Control and Prevention Center, said. "It takes time to determine what it is."

According to official sources, EV71 began spreading in Fuyang in early March but this outbreak

20



To stop the virus spreading to more children, all kindergartens in Fuyang have begun May Day holiday two days earlier.



Experts say it is too early to say if its EV 71 cases spread from Anhui Province.

CFP Photos



Most children with the virus have been treated and recovered.

virus to the public 40 days after the fact has triggered heated discussion and criticism in Chinese media who say that local government officials should be sacked.

A press officer with the Ministry of Health Monday declined to comment on what punishments local authorities and hospitals would face and said the Anhui provincial authorities are handling the situation.

Beijing can rest easy

The Beijing health departments said Monday that no cases had been reported in the city.

Li Xingwang, chief with the center for treatment of infectious diseases of Beijing Ditan Hospital, said there was no need to panic.

Li said Enterovirus 71 can cause hand, foot and mouth diseases that usually start with a slight fever followed by blisters and ulcers in the mouth and rashes on hands and feet. It may also cause high fever, meningitis, encephalitis, pulmonary edema and paralysis in a small number of children.

"An overwhelming majority of the patients are curable," Li, who is in charge of the expert panel for prevention and treatment of the virus, said.

"Treatment needs nothing special, and most of the children can recover after a week's treatment," Li said, while suggesting parents with children under six should teach them to wash their hands often, and home-owners should air out their homes frequently.

Experts said although EV71 is not on China's mandatory reporting list of infectious diseases and rarely seen in Anhui, the virus is a global infection and has been reported by many countries including Malaysia and Singapore, and in the provinces of Taiwan and Shandong.

Singapore has been fighting a recent outbreak itself with over 9,000 cases, including some EV71 infections, reported so far this year. At least eleven childcare centers and preschools have been closed down in the city-state, and 34 more have been urged to voluntarily shut down for disinfection.

There is no vaccine or anti-viral agent available to treat or prevent the virus. Instead, treatment focuses on managing its complications, which can include meningitis and heart failure, the World Health Organization's acting China representative, Cris Tunon, said in a statement.

Hacker attack looms as Olympics approaches

(PC World) – While CNN recently faced distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks from angry Chinese hackers incensed by the television network's coverage, security officials remain worried hackers will strike while the Olympic Games is being held.

"China's IT space is one of the most malware-ridden in the world," Jim Fitzsimmons, a security consultant in Shanghai, said, attributing the problem to a lack of attention to security management, such as applying software patches that fix vulnerabilities.

Apart from hackers looking to use the Olympic Games as a way to make a political statement or to generate publicity, security officials may also contend with the possibility of reprisals to Chinese attacks on CNN's Web site or other sites that have been hit.

So far, there has not been a response from foreign hackers to the attacks on CNN. But hackers may simply be bidding their time, choosing to attack or deface Chinese Web sites during the Olympics, a time when any such incident would generate the most publicity.

"I honestly believe something is going to happen, but how bad it could be or the scale of it is anybody's guess," Fitzsimmons said.

Expert comment

Chinese Hacker

我们是黑客，我们来自中国，我们是中国人不可分割的一部分，任何企图将台湾从中国分裂出去，阻碍海峡统一的梦想都必将被毁灭！我们只有一个中国！！！



FACT: McDonald's

The Web site of McDonald's was attacked by an alleged Chinese hacker in 2004. Recent reports on the hacker attacks draw the authority's concern.

CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

China will spare no effort to boost network security ahead of the upcoming Games, Xi Guohua, vice minister of Information Industry, said at a recent conference in the southern city of Shenzhen, Guangzhou Province.

Based on historical experi-

ence, Xi said, many hackers seek to make a name for themselves, and the Olympic Games is deemed as a challenge and a target.

The Beijing Olympics may face attacks from individual hackers, groups, organizations, as well as other countries and those with all kinds of political

motivations, and the network security situation is very grim," Xi said.

Among moves the Chinese government has taken to tighten network security during the Olympics, it created a special response team in Beijing that will monitor systems for signs of attacks and then respond if one is detected.

"The response team's job won't be easy. The prevalence of malware in China means maintaining network security during the Olympics will be a significant challenge," the vice minister said.

Fifty-eight percent of the world's bot-controlled computers – systems that can be controlled remotely to launch denial-of-service (DoS) attacks or send spam – are based in China, according to the ministry's 2007 estimates.

In addition, computers infected with trojan viruses, which gives a hacker back-door access to a computer, are also a growing problem. Last year, random checks by the ministry identified 995,000 Chinese computers as infected by trojan viruses, compared to 44,717 computers identified in 2006 – an increase of 21 times.

Sci-tech human resources top 42 million

(APP) – The country has a human resources reservoir of 42 million in science and technology, according to a report issued Tuesday.

The report, compiled by the China Association for Science and Technology, said about 66 percent of the country's "sci-tech" human resources were below 40 years old, and the ratio of male to female was 2:1.

The human resources form an important foundation for the nation's renovation capacity, and after half a century's efforts, it stands at the forefront of the world in terms of the quantity of "sci-tech" human resources, the report said.

It proposes that the country emphasize improving the quality of these resources, properly deploy them, nurture more such resources and guide their flow.

5 jailed for selling tainted drugs

(AP) – Five officials from a pharmaceutical company that sold tainted antibiotics responsible for more than a dozen deaths have been sentenced to up to seven years in prison, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The longest sentence – seven years – was given to Zhu Chenghua by the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court for being "directly involved in this serious crime," the *Yangcheng Evening News* said.

Zhu was vice chairman of the Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. Four other employees of the northeast China-based company will be jailed for four to six years.

The court convicted the five of being responsible for the deaths of 13 patients due to a lack of safety precautions in the drug company's inspection process, the newspaper reported.

The victims developed acute kidney failure at a hospital in the southern city of Guangzhou after using the company's *Armillarisini A* drug.

Record price for men in underwear at auction

(Reuters) – A Beijing auction raised a record 57.1 million yuan (US \$8.2 million) for a mainland Chinese oil painting of men playing cards in their underwear, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

"The Breeding Ground No.1," from contemporary painter Liu Xiaodong's Three Gorges Series, was bought by a private buyer at the China Guardian 2008 Spring Auction, Xinhua reported.

The painting, 2.6 meters high and 10 meters wide, was painted in the Three Gorges area from 2005 to 2006, depicting 11 men in their underwear playing cards.

"I painted the Three Gorges three times. Each time was a personal improvement," Liu, 45, a China Central Academy of Fine Arts graduate, said.

Future of business seen through billionaires

(IHT) – "My generation is very lucky," Feng Jun, chief executive of Aigo, said.

Feng is a classic Chinese entrepreneur who started with US \$31 in his pocket, and who has since built a business whose products are a staple of urban China: digital cameras, MP3 players and a new iPhone-like all-in-one device.

Before telling me his Horatio Alger story, though, he had something he wanted me to understand.

"My mother and father went through the Cultural Revolution," Feng said. "They had no chance."

He continued, "When I was in grammar school, the Cultural Revolution ended. When I graduated from university in 1992, which was the year of real reform, Deng Xiaoping encouraged students to go into business and become entrepreneurs. Before then, if you wanted to be an entrepreneur, you would sink like a stone. After that, anyone could be an entrepreneur."

I had spent two weeks in China, hardly enough time to begin understanding the place – as if a country as vast and varied and complex as China can ever be truly understood, let alone by a foreigner. But this quote reso-



Michael Yu won a reputation for his Stanley Kaplan-style New Oriental School.
CFP Photo

nates with many other things I saw and heard in China.

It helps explain why most of the Chinese chief executives I met – every one a company founder – was in his or her 30s. Though Feng began his company 16 years ago, he is still only 39.

You hear that China is a country of young people – the average age is 33 – but you really see it in business. People over the age of 50 really missed learning the impulse to take risks.

Intellectual property situation improved

Slowly, but slowly, the intellectual property situation seems to be improving.

Granted, this is not immediately obvious. Counterfeit goods are everywhere; even at the Great Wall, I was offered some great deals on fake Rolex watches.

On the other hand, government agencies no longer take Microsoft Windows gratis; they pay licensing fees, just as we do in the West. About a year ago, the government also mandated that all computer manufacturers had to preload a licensed operating system – instead of simply taking one.

Plus, many Chinese companies talk about wanting to instill a culture of innovation, rather

than slavishly copying the innovations of others. But innovation is impossible without intellectual property protection.

Michael Yu

My last interview in China was with a teacher-turned-businessman named Michael Yu. He is the founder and chief executive of New Oriental, a Stanley Kaplan-style company he began in 1993 and now the largest private education company in China. In 2006, it went public on the New York Stock Exchange, making Yu a billionaire.

Yu has been through a lot to get to where he is. He'd been run out of Beijing University after public humiliation. He'd struggled to get a government license to start his first school. His was hardly a get-rich-quick story, and Yu told it with humility.

"We didn't just do this to get rich," he said. "We are doing it to enrich other people's life. The IPO is a dot on the road. You do not change your road because you have money or because you have IPO."

Despite China's many problems, it is hard not to be optimistic when you meet someone like Yu. If he is the future of Chinese business, then that future is very bright.

Property market won't turn bearish

The nation's real estate market will not see a major slowdown this year despite the government's intensified efforts to cool price rises, a top government think-tank said in a report published Monday.

Urban property prices rose less rapidly in March than in the first two months, and the property outlook index, which covers price and investment trends, continued to decline in March after peaking in November.

But the Chinese Academy of

Social Sciences (CASS) said that it was too soon to conclude that the market is heading south.

"Although transaction volume has declined in some cities since 2007 and more buyers are now waiting on the sidelines, that does not necessarily indicate the approach of a turning point," it said in a report summarized by the official *China Securities Journal*.

The country's urbanization and its residents' demand for better housing, compounded by the scarcity of land and the

government's tightened grip on land supply, would put continued pressure on prices in the long run, it said.

The National Development and Reform Commission, top economic planner, also said recently that upward pressure on property prices would increase in the second quarter as more people put their money in property to avoid the erosion of returns faced by bank deposits.

CASS said that inflows of speculative capital from over-

seas would increase during the remainder of the first half of the year, as investors sought shelter from global economic turbulence and bet on continued appreciation of the yuan.

To brake increases in property prices, the government will continue its tightening campaign, including curbing land supply and loan growth and giving further policy incentives aimed at increasing the supply of more affordable housing, it said.

(Agencies)

Mary Kay accused of bribery

By Zhang Dongya

An anonymous netizen posted a list including the names and personal information of hundreds of recipients of free Mary Kay cosmetics. Most of the people on the list were officials from the industry and commerce departments, taxation departments and public security departments in Guangdong, Henan and other provinces.

The company is suspected of bribing government officials.

According to the post, which listed the products and prices for what each person accepted, the most expensive gift was 998 yuan.

The posted information was found to be dated, and many of the places named have changed. Several people on the list interviewed admitted to accepting Mary Kay cosmetics three years ago.

"We did present some samples to get feedback, and it is common in the cosmetics industry – nothing to do with bribery," a spokesman for Mary Kay China said. The company refused further comment about the name list.

Mary Kay China in a public statement Monday blamed the leak on an ex-employee surnamed Qiu who posted the list. Qiu took internal documents with him when he left in 2006, which then posted to the Internet. Mary Kay called the police, and Qiu was forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement. It remains unproven if the latest leak was by him.

According to regulations, officials who accept presents valued more than 5,000 yuan are considered corrupt. Since the cosmetics were valued less than 1,000 yuan, the gift did not violate the law, though it did violate ethics, Li Xiaolong, a lawyer in Shanghai said.

Mary Kay, an Addison-based skin care and cosmetics company, was granted a direct-selling license in late 2006 in China. China is its largest market outside the US.

Gov to lease foreign fields

By Huang Daohen

The government is looking at farms in Russia and South America as it seeks new ways to feed the world's largest population amid a global grain shortage, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

Companies exploring overseas agricultural resources will help balance domestic demand and supply, it reported.

Xie Guoli, a senior trade promotion official with the ministry, told Xinhua that China had built up its agricultural technology know-how and the government would, in the future, enhance policy support for such initiatives.

The report said soaring international grain prices and the record-high domestic inflation were the main factors behind the drive.

Grain prices rose 60 percent on the global market in the first three months of the year, adding to inflationary pressure.

Inflation in the first quarter hit a 12-year high at 8.0 percent, Xinhua reported.

Sinotruk eyes foreign tie-ups boost image

(FT) – Sinotruk, China's leading heavy truck manufacturer, is looking for acquisitions and joint venture partners in overseas markets to help boost international sales from less than 20 per cent now to more than 30 per cent by 2011.

The company, which raised US \$1.2 billion in an initial public offering in Hong Kong last November, said that it was already in very early discussions with an unnamed foreign rival on a potential co-operation deal, which could possibly take place this year.

Ma Chunji, Sinotruk's chairman, told the Financial Times: "By acquisitions or forming joint ventures, we will be able to have a bigger presence in international markets, where products are usually sold at higher prices."

Trade union finds problems in Nine Dragons

By Huang Daohen

China's wealthiest woman's company violates workers' legal rights and interests and uses abusive penalties, the local trade union said.

There are management problems in Nine Dragons, owned by Zhang Yin, who topped China's rich list in 2006, Kong Xianghong, vice chairman of the Guangdong Provincial Trade Unions Federation, said.

Kong said the trade union dispatched six investigators to conduct a sample survey among 100 workers of Nine Dragons Paper concerning issues of welfare, work accidents, unreasonable penalties and job satisfaction.

According to feedback, its welfare policies are relatively satisfying, but there are problems with violations of workers' legal rights and interests, and abusive penalties, Kong said.

China's toy industry seeks for development



By Zhang Dongya

At China's 103rd Import and Export Fair, the Canton Fair, the situation for foreign orders was better than the toy makers expected. More and more toy makers began to reconsider the position and development direction of their products.

China's toy exports slowed during the second half of 2007 due to increased prices. Large-scale quality recalls also hurt the industry. However, the industry shows signs of recovery. The toy exports in Guangdong Province rose 43.5 percent to 1.8 billion yuan in the first two months this year.

Xinhua Photo

Multinational companies shirked pollution info release

By Huang Daohen

Among 28 multinational companies operating in China, nearly half shirked the operating standards of their home countries by not publicizing pollution information, Greenpeace, an environmental NGO, released in its recent survey.

The survey found that of 28 companies, 13 – including ExxonMobil, General Motors, Total, Nissan and Toyota – adopted a double standard on the environment.

"We investigated the Top Global 100 companies who set up production bases or factories in China ... and the result is disappointing," Liu Lican, a manager of Greenpeace China, said.

The companies publish their pollutant information in other countries, but their disclosure

in China is shrinking. "Lack of impetus in China to unveil pollution information has greatly hurt the Chinese people's right to know the truth," he added.

Liu said the investigation team collected relevant information through each company's Web site. The team also sent questionnaires to the companies to guarantee the data's accuracy, setting aside a month for reply. Only six companies responded to the questionnaire.

He stressed that the survey was not done to make things difficult for the companies, but that people in every country have a right to know about the condition of the environment.

The government will release this month the Planning Environmental Impact Assessment

regulation (EIA), Yang Chaofei, director of the policy, law and regulations department in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, said.

The draft is now available for comment. The EIA is designed to ensure that the environmental consequences of major development projects, such as chemical and power plants, are identified and assessed before approval is granted.

The Planning EIA, hailed as a major step toward sustainable development, will take effect sooner than the Project EIA, which fails to factor in environmental impact on the wider geographic area.

Public and environmental authorities are now invited to register their opinions on the draft.

Make more room for buskers

By Huang Daohen

The city should set aside certain areas for street performers or "buskers," a recent provisional draft in Shanghai suggested, amid public controversy demanding street entertainers be sidelined to help clean up the city.

Street performers in China are often frowned upon and equated to beggars, a public nuisance, but often they are just free spirits chasing a musical dream. One cited example is Gan Lin, a young migrant singer who plays guitar and sings every evening at the entrance to the Guomao subway station, often attracting a crowd of young women and foreigners.

Gan's performance was cut short recently with, not a few coins and appreciative applause, but an invitation from the subway patrol to move on and a five yuan fine. Street performers are often cited under the Regulations for the Management of City Appearance and Environmental Sanitation, which fines performers, confiscates the equipment if it obstructs walkways, or otherwise affects the city's public image.

"I had only earned 3 yuan by that time," Gan, the singer, wrote on the Tianya forum. "They told me never to sing in a subway again, but I won't give up my dream."

His post received an outpour-

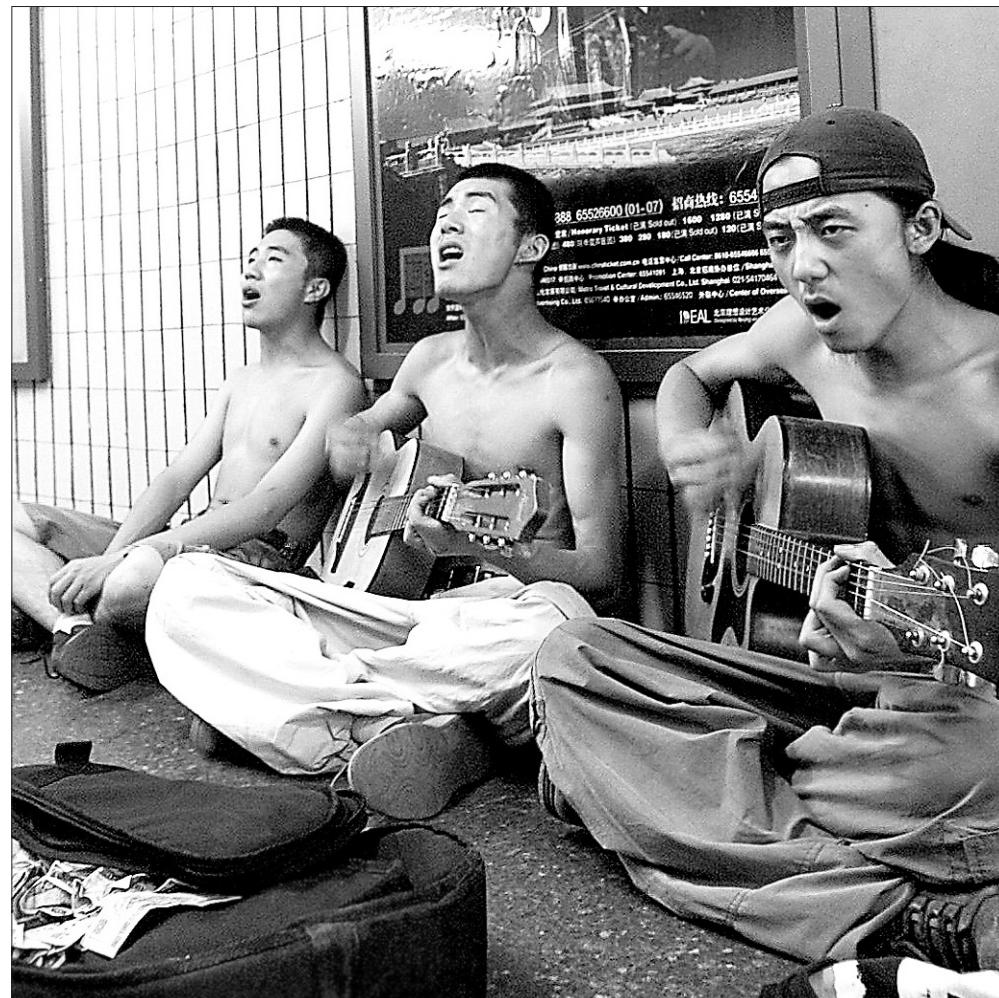
ing of public support in the form of numerous replies. "This is his way to express his passion for music. If I meet Gan singing in the subway, I'll sing with him for free," one netizen said.

The online discussion went on to remind readers that street performing is a part of the city's past, a piece of culture that is important to retain as the city is being swallowed up by international business giants.

The subway management disagreed. Officers said that singing for money and begging in the subway is forbidden. "It will easily cause congestion at the station and breach the outlook of the city," a company official said.

Sidewalk painters, guitar players, hip hop dancers and singers have found ways to share their street performances with the public in other world cities. City management bureaus in London and Paris believe that the preservation of street performers would bring a romantic, festive air to their cities.

"Their performances bring life and vibrancy to the chill of large cities," a local resident surnamed Wang said as she watched a man play erhu on a busy commercial street. "As our large cities move forward, we would do well not to forget the culture of our past."



Culture or public image breaker? The legalization of street performers stirs a heated debate.

CFP Photo

Expert view

Sociology professor Gu Jun at the University of Shanghai expressed his strong support for the street performers and the draft. "Instead of treating them with strict controls, more tolerance and better treatment of the performers will work," he said.

Street performers can be seen everywhere in Europe and the US. Shanghai and Beijing as international cities should set aside space for the street performers, he said.

For some people, the professor said, street performance has become a livelihood. For others who chase the free spir-

its of music, the street provides them a platform to show off their talents and pursue their musical dreams. Art performances bring a romantic air to the city, he said.

For some people, the professor said, street performance has become a livelihood. For others who chase the free spir-

Comment

Let them be

I remember a movie about street performers and how they struggled trying to get recognition from the public. They have dreams. I firmly suggest the city give street performers space to perform.

— Sindy Wu, teacher

Get a license

It becomes a business when you start to collect money from your work. There should be a

license issued and anyone performing in a public place should have a permit.

— Leon Lau, lawyer

Power to the people!

Society may still hold a low opinion of street performers, but such views are slowly changing.

This is actually another form of the city's culture and not everyone wants this art to disappear. Fight for your

right to sing!

— Simon, student

Noise nuisance

Quiet performances can be allowed anywhere at any time. But street performers should take care that they do and not make too much noise in a community.

Every artist has a duty to be aware of his volume to ensure noise pollution is kept to a reasonable level.

— Rui Lee, designer

7

Debate

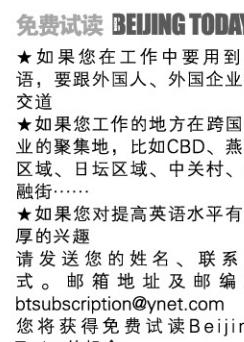


Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



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Debate

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UN backs free legal service for migrant workers

By Huang Daohen

The UN called for an alliance to enhance the protection of migrant workers' rights in China on Monday during a conference for the nation's free legal service project.

This project, entitled Enhancing Legal Aid Service for Migrant Workers in China, was started last January and brought together national and international partners of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Belgium Government, the All

China Lawyers' Association, as well as local legal firms and voluntary lawyers.

The initiative, jointly funded by the Belgium Government and the China Legal Aid Foundation, has successfully established a network of working stations that provide professional legal aid to migrant workers in over 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China.

Through the free legal services, thousands of migrant work-

ers, women and men, get easy access to free and professional legal aid such as legal consultation and case presentation.

Millions of defaulted wages and other compensations were paid back to migrant workers, a report from the project said. In addition, the working station conducted training and awareness-raising sessions to develop the workers' capacity to protect their own rights.

Policy issues, such as non-gov-

ernment organizations' roles in legal aid and how to better give a voice to migrant workers in the revision of related government regulations, were also tackled through this project, the report said.

"Human development in the end means the respect, protection and realization of human rights for all, particularly the poor and the disadvantaged," Alessandra Tisot, UNDP Deputy Country Director in China, said at the conclusion ceremony.

Event

Lecture: Style analyses

Geraldine Wijsbeek will lecture on figure analysis, general advice, style and fashion plus style befitting your character. Wijsbeek is a visiting image consultant from the Netherlands. She is a Master of the Federation of Image Consultants in London and has many years of experience with color and individual styling and as a Feng Shui facilitator.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 8, 10 am

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekdays mornings and evenings; and weekends, rerouted to mobile phone)

Yin Yoga intro course with Victor Chng

Victor Chng, the founder of Yoga in Asia in Singapore, will be giving his 2-day intro course on Yin Yoga. Yin Yoga is fast becoming one of the most popular forms of Yoga in Asia. Through practicing breathwork and meditation, one becomes more able to rest in the natural state. He will explore the receptive and active practices that enhance our inherent openness through both holding poses and flowing motion and also allow time for seated meditation.

Where: In one of the Beijing YOGA/Fine-Yoga studios or alternatively in a rented space somewhere in Chaoyang/CBD district.

When: May 10-11

Cost: 1,000 yuan for the full workshop

Concert by Kymi Sinfonietta, Finland

The Kymi Sinfonietta appointed Japanese-born Yasuo Shinohara as its Chief Conductor/Artistic Director, January 1, 2007. Yasuo Shinohara has won extensive international renown in a very short period of time. His spontaneous style, full of feeling and making music grips players and audiences alike, and the cheerful, vigorous conductor has likewise won the hearts of the Kymi Sinfonietta.

Where: Beijing Concert Hall

When: May 15, 7:30 pm

Cost: 580 280 180 and 80 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Jane Germain & Ian Simpson performance

Jane Germain returns to China for her 5th "Middle Kingdom Tour" – combining folk, blues, country, swing and cultures in a sublime international mix of sounds that is making her mark on the world scene. Accompanying Jane will be Ian Simpson – winner of six Golden Guitars, an Aria Award with his band, Flying Emus, and he is also a 3-time Australian National Banjo Champion.

Where: Yu Gong Yi Shan, West Courtyard Former Site of Duan Qirui Government, Zhang Zizhong Lu 3-2, Dongcheng District
When: May 5, 9 pm
Cost: 50 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

(By He Jianwei)

Embassy wives get involved in charity



Daniela Xuereb and her husband, the Ambassador of Malta in Beijing

Photo by Gan Tian

By Gan Tian

Daniela Xuereb, the wife of the Ambassador of Malta in Beijing, has another role in her daily life – the president of the Commonwealth Society in Beijing (CSB). The community's biggest event, the Charity Gala, is going to be held on June 6. Xuereb shared her experience in working as the leader and the process of preparing the ball.

CSB was founded about 10 years ago in Beijing. It is a non-profit organization devoted to charity work in Beijing. What is special about it is that the members of the community are all wives of the ambassadors in Beijing.

"We have different colors, backgrounds and cultures," Xuereb said, "one of my important aims is to look for the similarities between those differences." Xuereb gave an example: as an Italian woman, she would always come to the meetings with her head held high and with a more

casual style, but an Asian woman shows more respect, more modesty." However, that does not prevent the meeting from ending up with lots of laughter and fun.

Xuereb and her friends started to prepare the June Charity Gala in January. The gala is the biggest event of the CSB every year.

As working women, the ladies of the CSB also know how to entertain themselves. They often went mountain climbing,

had breakfast together and went on picnics. "Some of the ambassador's families have just arrived here and have no friends," Xuereb said, "but the organization helped them to find his or her community. I made a lot of friends here."

Because the members are all women, the CSB focuses more on the charities. "Women are more sensitive and tender-hearted. A smile is her weapon," she said, "so women are powerful."

Diplomats Running for Peace and Friendship

By Zhou Xuan

Jingrun Garden villa, Xiaoyun Lu hosted a gathering of one hundred and fifty representatives from 51 embassies in Beijing for a running competition last Saturday.

The running, dubbed Diplomats Running for Peace and Friendship, focused on praying for world peace and blessing the Olympics, the organizer from the embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to China, said.

The race is a social and sporting event celebrating the 100-day Olympic countdown and promoting recreation and sports.

"Having different beliefs mixed with different colors, but keeping the same smile, is a symbol of peace and participation," Anthony Rachobokoane Thibeli, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, said.

Ricardas Ramoska, a Lithuanian diplomat, dashed across the finish line for the win.

CBD Chinese Cultural Festival Opens This Week



One of the performances is the traditional costumes show

Photo by CBD Jianwai Community

By Yang Wanli

The CBD jiedao community held its third Chinese cultural festival of the Jianwai community in the Beijing City International School last Saturday.

Residents, local Beijingers, students, migrant workers and

foreigners from the Jianwai community joined the ceremony to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Chaoyang District.

The ceremony presented many traditional cultural shows, including Peking opera,

hanfu, or Han Dynasty clothing, Chinese paper kites and folk music.

The traditional costumes show was considered to be the most popular performance.

"Young modern Chinese women were wearing long beautiful Chinese ancient clothes and being escorted by elegant ancient-style Chinese gentlemen," one of the visitors said.

Apart from the Chinese cultural shows, there were foreign cultural performances. Students from the Guanghua Second Elementary School performed in a band and it all finished up with Spanish dancing.

According to the organizer of this cultural festival, these activities are not only for the celebration of the founding of Chaoyang District, but also to celebrate the 2008 Olympics. The festival continues until November.

Olympic venues for tour



The Water Cube attracts many visitors and newly-weds.

By Zhang Dongya

According to the new lines released by the Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch, the Olympic stadiums of the Bird's Nest and Water Cube have been officially added to the list of the Beijing One-Day Tour for the first time. All the lines are expected to open on May 1.

Since the Bird's Nest and Water Cube are still not open to the public, tourists can only view the stadiums from the outside, about 200 meters away. Visitors will have the opportunity to take pictures around the stadiums.

With the coming of the Olympics, tourists, especially non-locals, want to visit the new stadiums. "More than half of the visitors

who call every day inquire about Olympic stadium tours," Zhang Xutao, spokesman of the Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch said.

The dispatch company opened three lines to the Bird's Nest and Water Cube in mid-March for testing purposes.

"The Games provides good opportunities for the tourism industry in Beijing, and new trademark structures like the Bird's Nest and Water Cube will be the most popular attractions to tourists," Zhang Huiguang, director of Beijing Tourism Administration said.

The Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch released seven new lines in all, three cross-provincial lines, three lines for the Beijing One-Day Tour and one special line to Happy Valley.

The dispatch company, set up in 2005, is a government-run organization which provides special one-day tour package services to attractions in and around Beijing.

New lines as follow:

Line 1: Temple of Heaven - CCTV Tower - Summer Palace - Olympic stadiums

Price: 220/200 yuan for adults/ children

Line 2: Summer Palace - Badaling Great Wall - Olympic stadiums

Price: 180/110 yuan for adults/ children

Line 3: Shisanling, Ming Tombs - Olympic stadiums - Summer Palace

Price: 170/125 yuan for adults/ children

Tel: 8353 1111 (24-hour customer service)

Only one bag allowed for economy class

By Jackie Zhang

Passengers traveling economy class are only allowed to take one piece of luggage with them onto the plane. But if the luggage is over-weight, or is bigger than the bulk size limitation, they must be checked, according to the rules of the Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC), which were put into practice Thursday.

In the past, the security staff at airports implemented the rule very casually. When passengers were carrying overweight luggage or too many bags, they were asked to simply check the luggage. "But this time, there is no chance for passengers to break the rules," CAAC East China Regional Administration said.

Passengers in first class are allowed two pieces of luggage.

Yanqing hotels extend check-out time to 2pm

By Bai Jingnan

This Monday, the Beijing Consumer Association proposed that hotels should be setting check-out time later to free up customers better. At present, 40 hotels in Yanqing have already agreed to change the check-out time from 12pm to 2 pm. Another 35 hotels refuse to change.

The hotels industry has a general rule on check-out time stating that hotel customers must be out of their rooms by 12 noon.

If past noon, the customer is charged for another half day. If after 6pm, the hotel guest must pay for another full day.

Recommended new places for the May holiday



Beijing antique market is popular for all visitors.

Photo by Wang Lei

By Li Fenghua

Old antique market takes up trade

The first antique market, Haiwangcun Antique Market, located in Liulichang, reopened on April 26. According to historical records, Liulichang Culture Street was established during the Yuan Dynasty. The street now displays all kinds of cuttard artifacts, including old paintings, calligraphy and ink slabs.

Tracing marks to track tea

Beijing Municipal Bureau of Quality and Technology Supervision said that all of the tea products will be marked with a digital

code and customers can check the original source through the phone or Internet and get real-time evaluations.

Customers can check the tea quality three ways: call 9500 1111 or 114, send a short message to 106695001111, or they can check at 95001111.com.

Free bike rentals in Xuanwu District

Xuanwu District started offering free bikes to visitors on Wednesday.

The activity will last to the end of the Paralympic Games. All customers in participating hotel can rent bikes for free and get free tourism reference.

There are 33 bikes provided in the hotels such as the Xinbeiwei Restaurant, Dongfang Restaurant, Fengzeyuan Restaurant and the Yuandong Youth Hotel.

First sand sculpture park opens

The biggest sand sculpture park in China, which is located in Daxing District, opened to tourists last Saturday.

Hundreds of sand sculptures are really a spectacular sight. Visitors can take photographs with such sculptures as the pyramids, terracotta warriors, horses and Snow White.

Price for the trial opening, from April 26 to July: 40 yuan for adults and 30 yuan for students

Take bus 943 and get off at the Gudaqiao stop, or drive south along the Jingkai expressway, the park is 200 meters west of Gudaqiao.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyng@ynet.com

I am visiting my friends in Hong Kong this weekend. I decided to take a flight to Shenzhen and then take some form of transport to Hong Kong for cheaper flight tickets. I get off work on Friday after 6pm and will arrive in Shenzhen at night. Which way is the best way for me to get to HK from Shenzhen at that time? Is the border still open?

The train stops before midnight. So if you get off work at 6 pm in Beijing, you will need one hour to get to the airport. It's a Friday night and the traffic is bad. It takes about 3 hours to fly from Beijing to Shenzhen. So you cannot catch the train.

Take a taxi to the Huang Gang border crossing bus station. There are 24-hour buses to most places in HK from there, HK\$ 30-50 per ticket. As soon as you walk out of the SZ airport, turn right and you'll see a door with a waiting room. Go in there and pay about 50 yuan and they will drive you to HK.

If I register at the local police station and I only have a Business Visa (F), will they become suspicious that I am working in Beijing? Or does the type of visa have nothing to do with the registration?

If you are not a high-ranked employee in a big corporation where your HR assistant deals with all your legal processing in China, you had better register. Getting registered at the local police station has nothing to do with your visa type, but make sure you do have a visa.

Last issue, a question was raised about smelly washrooms in apartment buildings. A reader offered a solution.

Rather than using a plastic bag to cover the drain, or sewage hole, pour a few glasses of water into it to re-positioning the trap in the pipe. This is the solution and one should repeat it monthly to preserve the trap, which is used to seal the foul smell in the sewage pipe.

I read your courtyard electric heating costs last issue and wonder if there is any cheaper solution?

If you are considering renting a hutong or courtyard place for a long term, say three-five years, it is cheaper to install normal heating pipes from local government heating department. You can get more information from your community committee. It costs about 24 yuan per square-meter and a total of 4,800 yuan for a 200-square-meter house with a guarantee of warmth.

(By Wei Ying)

Working in a



Google's logo

Photo provided by Ogilvy PR



Trends decor

IT - Google

As soon as you walk into Zhongguancun, you can easily see Google's big logo. There are three big screens and three computers ready for your use. Compared to the US headquarters, Google's China office occupies more floors – 11 in total – but there are fewer staff members working on each floor allowing more space for the employees.

Though there are no swimming pools or volleyball fields like in the US headquarters, Google's Beijing building still ranks top in Beijing. One reason? It gives extreme

freedom to its workers. For every Google employee, their work is their life, and their life is their work.

Jammies on the job

Working at an IT company usually requires a suit, but not at Google. Any casual look is allowed in the office. Employees can wear pajamas while programming and talking to their boss.

There is a "pajamas day," accepted by the head office in the US, when all the staff is required to wear pajamas to work,

in a bid to make work more fun and creative.

Creative culture

Each department has its own style. The women's office is more girls, so there are balloons and colorful decorations. The boys' office is more jigsaw puzzles.

The company charges US \$50 to decide what kind of company they want to be even though it costs nothing.



The cafe



A Siheyuan



Men's and women's washrooms

Media - Trends

The most famous fashion magazines, *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire* and *Bazaar*, all belong to Trends Media Group. The company moved into the Trends Tower located in The Place at Guanghua, Chaoyang District, in 2006.

The floors from 17 to 24 all belong to the group. The reception area is on the eighteenth floor, the bosses' offices on floor 24. The editorial departments of the two highest-end magazines in the group – *Cosmopolitan* and *Esquire* – are on floor 23. Between the 19th and 23rd floor are other magazines: *Bazaar*, *Bazaar Men Style*, *Men's Health*, *Trends*

Health, *Cosmo Bride*, and *Trends Home*.

It is said in the US that a fashion magazine needs 50 years to buy a building, but Trends only took 10 which certainly shows the group's determination in "leading the trend."

Cafe style

The reception area has a cafe with orange chairs, bartenders dressed in white and free coffee and drinks – it feels more like a public restaurant and not an office. People working here are pub-lovers and some occasionally go behind the bar to mix their own drinks.

In one corner, there is a bookshelf

featuring the latest issues of all the magazines produced at the company.

"Comma"tose company

The reception desk has a wall of carved Chinese characters, which company founders say is symbolic of traditional Chinese printing skills. "We emphasize print media because our company is involved in print media," Lisa Yu, media development supervisor in the group, said.

The group's logo is a comma inside a circle. "The symbol is always a comma and not a period. It signifies that the trend has no end," Yu said.

You can see the commas everywhere.

PR and Advertisement – Ogilvy

Ogilvy is located in the Jinbao Tower on Jinbaojie Street in the center of the city. The offices from floors nine to twelve all belong to Ogilvy. Its windows offer a view of traditional Beijing – hutongs, temples and the blue sky.

Being one of the top advertising companies both home and abroad, Ogilvy has a unique taste in design. A big red sofa and crystal hanging lights make the reception area seem like a palace. The black and red colors set the tone. It is believed dark colors stimulate people to think outside the box.

"To be the agency most valued by those who most value brands," is the mission statement of the Ogilvy and Mather Group worldwide, and the mission spills over into

its Beijing office. Teams from different disciplines are arranged in one area to deliver 360 Degree Brand Stewardship.

Artworks

Ogilvy has a gallery in its office. On floor nine, visitors can see the Ogilvy O-Gallery and view exhibited works for free. It prevents the visitors and clients from getting bored while waiting for their Ogilvy friends. Workers and the designers can use the gallery to develop ideas for their clients from examining the exhibits.

The present exhibition displays many oil paintings by dozens of young artists from the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Visitors may notice the bright colors and the exaggerated depictions of people.



The Ogilvy O-Gallery

The works exhibited in the Ogilvy O-Gallery are selected by local curator Han Congwu. Most of the art is created by young artists. One of the aims of O-Gallery is to provide more chances for the young to show off their talent.

Labyrinth of lights

The conference rooms are arranged randomly on floor nine so walking



Ogilvy's lobby

there is like navigating a labyrinth.

The conference rooms are all designed like boxes. The lighting system is at floor level, so when the lights are on, the conference rooms look like boxes floating on the ocean.

They have interesting names, too, like Cabinet, House of Commons and Temple of Heaven. To be more "localized," the company even has a room

surroundings like? Take a look around your room have a creative name? If not, please chosen three of the top offices in different

Wonderland

make the workers more relaxed

cubicles

partment in the office has its marketing department has visitors can see dolls, pink cartoon posters inside cubicles usually have model cars, and tents!

any gives every staff member decorate their cubicles. There competitions for best-decorated

cubicle and prizes.

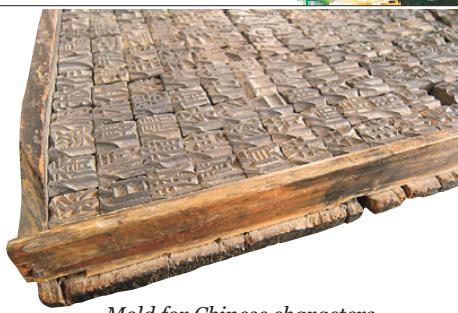
Free food

There is a relaxation area on each floor. Besides the coffee machines, the company supplies foods like in supermarkets: bread, nut and fresh fruit. There are more than 20 kinds of drinks in the refrigerator. These foods and snacks are all for free for employees.

The company has a saying, "You can't walk more than 100 steps, without finding free food."



Wall of Chinese characters



Mold for Chinese characters

in the office: on the wall, stair and a table designed in the shape of a comma in one of the big conference rooms.

Siheyuan survives

A siheyuan, a traditional Beijing courtyard where Trends Media Group first started in 1993, is set up on the 19th floor and looks the same as it did 15 years ago.

In the courtyard, photos show visitors what changes have taken place over the past 15 years and the fashion trends in China.

Gym dandy

One of the most interesting places

is the gym center on floor 22 – it is on the same floor with health magazines, *Trends Health* and *Men's Health*. Though there are no professional trainers walking around, the gym editors in these two apartments can provide professional advice.

Each worker in the group has a digital key to the exercise equipment. Professional training plans for each individual can be input into each key, and when the employee needs the gym, he or she simply inserts his or her key into the equipment and it will tell them what to do, how much time is left and offer nutrition plans.



A conference room

called Zhongnanhai.

The Temple of Heaven and Earth is an ideal space for trainings. The Chinese pronunciation of the Temple of Heaven is tiantan, the "tan" of which is a homonym with "talk." The room's name conveys its function and idea: to urge all the trainees to speak from the heart and communicate with their bosses.

Photos by Issac Feng



A very creative and colorful tree at Google

Photo provided by Ogilvy PR



Rough waters when surfing the net

By Charles Zhu

An Internet search is akin to being hit by a tidal wave of hundreds, even thousands of pieces of information from one key word. It is a puzzling and blinding experience, and where to start sorting is difficult. Modern tools allow us faster, better and cheaper access to data, but processing that data never gets any quicker or easier.

David Shenk, a fellow emeritus of the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University and commentator for public radio's "Marketplace," discusses what he terms the "data smog" phenomenon, as well as the darker side of the information technology in *Data Smog: Surviving the Information Glut* (256pp, HarperOne, US \$14).

He relates how his first computer was a Macintosh in 1984. "A man came into my home bearing a prolific machine, an appliance I mistook

to be generous in much the same way people frequently mistake credit cards for currency," he writes.

Based on this mistaken idea, he had enthusiasm "for the latest generation of electronic tools. I had gotten the old saw about knowledge and power turned around in my head: I was thinking that information was power." However, after a lapse of time, he began to feel surrounded by too much stuff, data being the prime component. Shenk blames it on the new medium.

In the book, Shenk talks about the laws of data smog, or overload, among which is that silicon circuits evolve more quickly than human genes can cope with. The information by "experts" serves to make people more confused than clear, something that is leading to ever more social ills, he says.

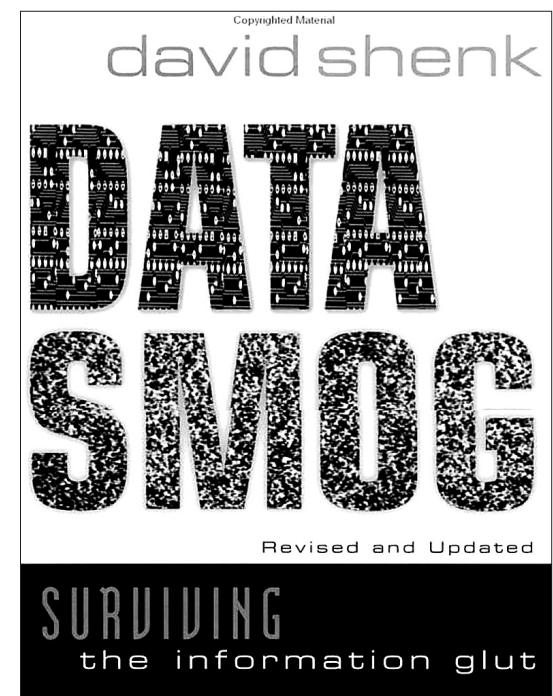
He describes society as mutating to clearly favor speed above

content, and image above meaning. Instant reaction has been raised above careful deliberation. The result is a sobering exposure of a phenomenon that Shenk believes is entrenched, but not necessarily inevitable.

He pins his remedies in a set of insightful appendices. More data, as Shenk discusses, is not a solution. Better data would be. Shenk says, the less the better. Humans are limited creatures and can only handle a certain amount of input, and quality matters much more than quantity.

A simple life style is one of Shenk's answers to Data Smog. The others include being your own filter, being your own editor, becoming a generalist and taking part in government rather than forsaking it.

Shenk suggests government should get involved in reducing the information glut – an idea fraught with controversy indeed.



Author says happy hour not just for bars

Can you be happy when you are locked into a cubicle for eight or more hours every day? Alexander Kjerulf says yes, and his new book *Happy Hour is 9 to 5* (196pp, Lulu.com, US \$29) makes some big promises.

How big?

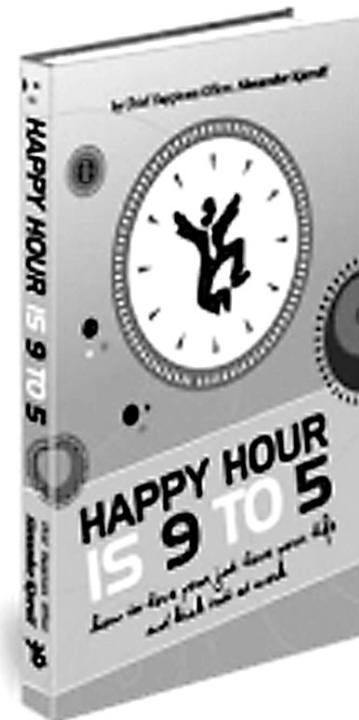
The subtitle alone will seem out of reach to most office-dwellers: "Learn how to love your job, create a great business and kick butt at work."

"We Scandinavians have an advantage over the rest of the world: we have a word for happiness at work," Kjerulf writes. He says that deeply-ingrained concept of happiness at work is what has made Nordic businesses like IKEA and NOKIA so successful in the international market.

He says people who are happy at work enjoy their job, like their coworkers, feel energetic and motivated, look forward to the office and go the extra mile. Conversely, dispirited employees are cynical, hate their coworkers, feel tired, work only enough not get fired and dread the office like one dreads a root canal.

"The days of working only for the money are almost over," Kjerulf writes. "Fewer and fewer people will settle for a working day that gives them nothing but financial security. And fewer and fewer companies can survive and innovate when their employees are only in it for the money."

The change came with the dawn of the information age, Kjerulf says. Before then,



work was something people did with their hands. Now, the tasks of many office workers lie primarily in their heads – somewhere an employee's emotional state can have a staggering impact on his performance.

The book discusses who is responsible for keeping you happy at work – hint, it starts with "y" and ends with "ou" – and tips any office or forward-thinking employees can implement to lighten up the in-cube atmosphere.

The book published by Lulu.com and in print and PDF. Kjerulf has also made a full text copy available for free at positivesharing.com/happyhouris9to5/.

Kjerulf, a "chief happiness officer," is a consultant and speaker on office happiness. His clients include IBM, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and DaimlerChrysler.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

Cures for the ailing office

Is the office becoming your personal Hell? Find kindred spirits and twist the mundane with these three bestsellers that deal with the problems of office life.

The Home Office from Hell Cure

By Jeffrey Landers, 240 pp, Entrepreneur Press, US \$21.95

Is your home-based business suffering from fatal stagnation? Successful business owner Jeffrey Landers provides the defibrillator you need to jump-start your business and bring it back to life in just 100 days. The top 10 signs, including "my husband thinks I need to get a real job," are provided to help to judge whether your home office is on the road to failure.

"Jeff Landers treats a serious subject with humor, style and wisdom. If you have a home office, his cure is just what the home office doctor ordered."

– Jay Conrad Levinson, father of Guerrilla Marketing

21 Dirty Tricks at Work

By Mike Phipps, 260 pp, Capstone, US \$26

It is all about lies. The type of underhanded, pernicious and downright Machiavellian scheming that goes on in business every day. But it is also a book of hope. It exposes classic maneuvers and gives practical advice on dealing with them to the vast majority who just want to do a good day's work.

"... New middle management recruits should read one trick before retiring each night; that way they'll get wise to every trick in the book within a month ..."

– Professional Manager, January 2006

Greening Your Office

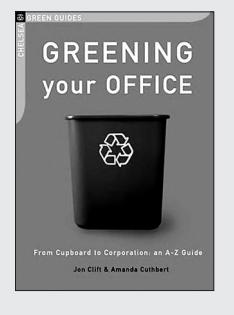
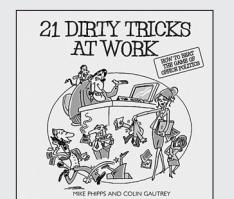
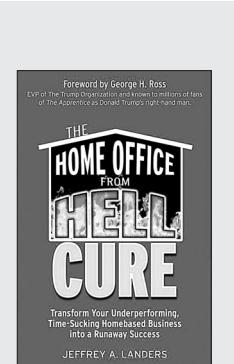
By Jon Clift & Amanda Cuthbert, 96 pp, Chelsea Green Publishing, US \$7.95

An alphabetical guide to energy and resource saving tips for offices of all sizes, from energy use to better supply purchases, to recycling and reusing materials, plus summaries of a range of renewable energy options, commuting techniques and more. These tips help your workplace save money while reducing environmental impact, and can boost employee morale in the process. Your choices for coffee, computer monitors, furniture, invoices, lighting, paper, stamps and hundreds of other items can add up to a better world.

"This isn't just a book for the office manager: a sustainable workplace is also an engaged work culture and an efficient working team, and this book should ... be included in management courses."

– Naturalchoices.co.uk

(By Zhang Dongya)



Entertainment for the daily commute



Finding ways to stay entertained is a crucial step in combating the mental drain of a commute.

By He Jianwei

Commuting in rush hour is an exhausting experience for office workers. With the opening of new subways, more and more commuters will ride the rails. Some people may spend one to two hours on the train, so knowing how to kill time while on board is critical.



The subway journey can be boring and exhausting for commuters.

CFP Photos

Popular portable PlayStation

"Without a PlaySta-

tion Portable (PSP), a subway ride feels more like a traffic jam," one neti-zen wrote in a survey on ways to kill subway time; 37 of the 53 respondents echoed his sentiments.

The PSP is a portable game console manufactured and marketed by Sony Computer Entertainment. One can not only play games, but also listen to music, browse images, read e-books and watch movies and TV series.

"I live in Liujiayao and work in Wud- aokou. I spend more than one hour on subway line 5 every day. I'm afraid of falling asleep and missing my stop, so I play PSP to keep me awoken. It makes the one-hour journey shorter," Liu Jianing, an IT worker, said.

Liu said most of his friends like to play games during their commute. Men liked to play *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Naruto: Ultimate Ninja* and *Ridge Racer*. Women prefer to play *LocoRoco*.

Tips

If your subway journey is less than 10 minutes, small flash games like ZUMA are best.

If you will be on the train for 30 minutes, then consider *Ridge Racer* or *Naruto*.

If the journey is more than an hour, you can download movies and TV series.

You can download games, music, movies and TV series from the following Web sites:

- psp.tgbus.com
- psp.chinaba.com

Making friends on Bluetooth

Song Wuyi recently published *An Office Worker's Love Adventures*, the story of how a commuter with the same name found a girlfriend on the subway using Bluetooth. He first met the girl, Candy, while on the subway, where they communicated using the Bluetooth in their phones.

Bluetooth is a wireless network to connect and exchange information between mobile phones. Subway line 5 makes a signal available to the mobile phones. Passengers can make phone calls and send messages on the subway.

"The Bluetooth service can make the communication with a stranger less embarrassing. For example, if I see a skirt I like, I can ask the passenger where she bought it. Of course, she would need a mobile phone with Bluetooth," Ding Yi, a clerk in a bank, said.

Tips

Mobile phones with Bluetooth can receive the information within 50 meters. You have to know what kind of mobile phone the other passenger has and make sure your phones are the same brand. Leaving Bluetooth running all the time is

unsafe and makes it possible for your phone to be infected with a virus.

Brain teasers on the go

If you see people scratching with a pencil and erasing frequently in a small book, they are probably working on a sudoku puzzle. "When I can't move on a subway because of the crowded people, I usually do sudoku," Allen Chan, a university teacher, said.

Sudoku is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3-by-3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Most of China's daily newspapers feature a sudoku puzzle column. Chan collects and cut them out of the newspaper and pastes them in a small notebook.

Some will play on their mobile phones or PSP. Some mobile phones contain a built-in sudoku game, or the ability to download puzzles off the Web.

"Most Chinese adults played Rubik's cube in their childhood. When I watched a video (of someone playing on the subway), it reminded me of the good old days. It is also a suitable brain teaser for the subway," Chan said.

Tips

If the train is bumpy, you should not play sudoku using a pencil. You might stab another passenger on a bump.

You can download the games on the following Web sites:

- sd9981.com
- 77txt.com
- D1999.com/gamesoft

Pocket books, read any time

Reading is the way most people kill time on the subway. Some read the newspaper and some read books. During rush hour, people always pack onto the train, and the space may be too small to open up a broadsheet paper.

Pocket books are a good choice for subway passengers.

"There are many substantial pocket books to pick from. If you like to read comics, you can read *The Twelfth Garfield Fat Cat* or *The Young Magician*. If you like to read the martial arts novels, you can read Jin Yong's - master of martial arts novels - stories, which have been published in the pocket editions," Chen Fei, a magazine editor, said.

If totting a paperback is inconvenient, you can always store e-books on your PSP. You can also download digital versions of bestsellers.

Tips

You can download e-books from the following Web site:

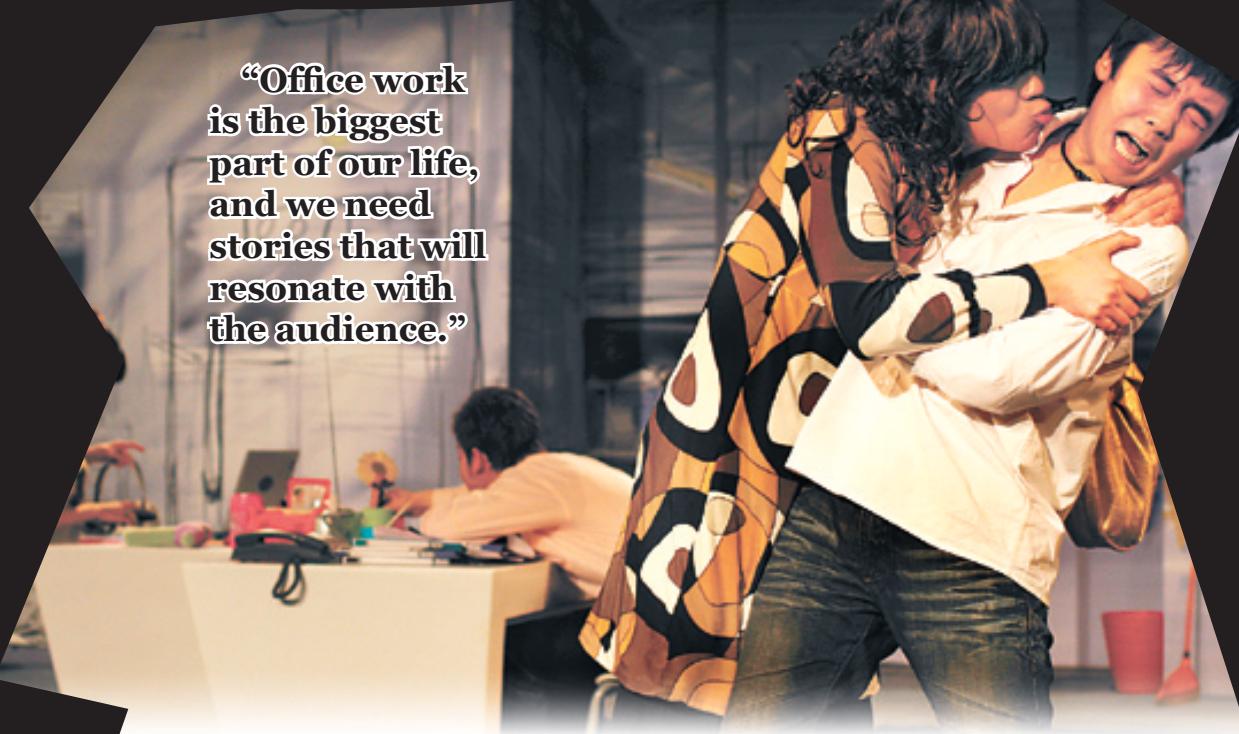
- psp.tgbus.com/down/pspxt
- e5u.cn

By He Jianwei

Home, office, home, office ... the life of most office workers drones on in monotony. A play staged last month in Beijing finds laughter and tears in a series of office affairs. Domestic TV dramas already focus on office life, and have received applause for their accessibility and familiarity to viewers.

Laugh and cry with your office on stage

"Office work is the biggest part of our life, and we need stories that will resonate with the audience."



The drama depicts office life from long overtime hours and struggling to afford marriage to sexual harassment.

Photos provided by Lin Xiaoneng



"The office building is like a box. The office is like a box. The apartment is like a box. The car, the subway, the elevator, the file, the desk, the chair and the book are like a box. It seems like everything is a smaller box inside a larger one," Lin Xiaoneng, one of the creators, said. "Everybody is living in a box, so we made Zhang's head a box. His image reflects the reality of our everyday work and life. Everyone can catch glimpses of his life in Zhang Xiaohe."

Office workers immediately embraced the strip on its debut. The Web site's chat groups and forums have around 10,000 active partici-

pants.

Late last year, Zhongxin Press published a Zhang Xiaohe comic book. Since its publication, Xiaohe's popularity has propelled him to a stage career.

"The Box" is the first play in the drama series "Office Affairs," which mainly tells stories of Zhang Xiaohe receiving a mysterious box that can make his dreams come true.

From working overtime and struggling to afford a marriage, to failing to do anything about sexual harassment, Xiaohe's stories have attracted fans who have endured similar experiences. The drama also provides tips for handling office problems.

"After two weeks of performances, we are continuously adjusting our play based on the suggestions of our audience. More and more people and companies are getting interested in the play. The cast performance is improving too," Guo Yan, producer, said.

Talking about why they chose to adapt this cartoon into a drama, Guo said they have been planning it for a long time.

"We found from our survey that most of our audience is young office workers. They like the topics because they are closely related to daily life. Office work is the biggest part of our life, and we need stories that will resonate with the audience," Guo said.

The Box is the first play in the drama series. Guo said the team plans to make more stories after this one, and will promote the play in other parts of China.

Chen Qiqi, a fan of Zhang Xiaohe, often chats with other office workers online and shares her own experience with them and the cartoon creators.

"I often talk with them. We are happy to provide some material and tell them interesting things that happened in the office. I feel glad that they have presented our stories through the cartoon and the drama," Chen said.



"The Box" is adapted from a popular comic about Zhang Xiaohe.



Zhang Xiaohe makes a wish on a mysterious box.

Other dramas about office affairs

Night, Game

It tells a story from an Internet company. Among their team, there is a mysterious boss, an assistant manager with two lovers and a paranoid secretary. In the play, the office is like a box filled with intrigue. It was first staged last August.

About Office Affairs

The first drama about office affairs on Shanghai's stage will be on stage from April 30 to May 31. The play focuses on the health problems that plague today's office workers. The workers deal with their problems by eating vitamins to exclusivity and exercising in the gym. They never become healthier: the real problem is they hate their lives — a physical, not a mental problem.



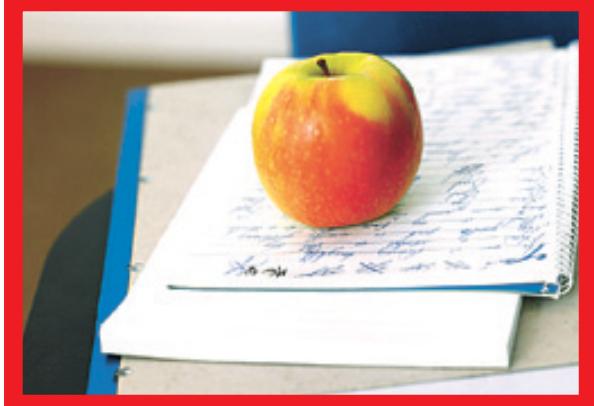
Worker's word on office food

By Li Fenghua / Sun Jina

Getting a bad case of the munchies while in the office can be an embarrassing problem. *Beijing Today* talks with several workers to find out how they deal with the in-cube desire to dine.

Shaving off pounds in the cube

Shi Xue – Low fat instant food and fruits



"I like eating low-fat instant food like dried tofu and yurouxiangchang when I am hungry in the office. I prefer spicy but healthy foods. As for drinks, I like juice or yogurt. They are natural and healthy," Shi Xue, 29, the operations manager of an IT company, said.

"Fruits are my everyday refreshments. It is dry in the office and we need all kinds of fruits to provide vitamins. Fruit is also good for digestion and the skin."



Discriminating tastes

Peter Zha – Tearoom and drink dispenser



Peter Zha, 26, an assistant in Big Four's insurance department, said he is busy with work and has no time for snacks. He is not allowed to snack in his office.

"Men are not the same as women. Many female colleagues like light snacks as entertainment or just pass time. A man does not. I used to go the teahouse for coffee, and sometimes I go to the drink vending machine," he said.

"I have almost tried almost everything in the vending machine," Peter said.

"As for computer radiation, using the computer is unavoidable. I don't worry about that as much as women do."



Seasonal changes

Jason Yang – Yogurt and green tea

Jason Yang, 25, a news reporter, said that he always has yogurt and green tea. "I have yogurt everyday. It is an excellent source of protein, calcium and vitamins. Compared to milk, yogurt contains more calcium and protein because of the added cultures," he said. "Green tea is a better choice in summer."



The cheaper, the better

Susan Chan – chicken noodles in peanut sauce

One of Chan's favorite meals to bring to work is chicken noodles in peanut sauce from the nearby 7-Eleven market.

"I love it because it is cheap and fast. The price is unbeatable at less than 10 yuan, especially with inflation on the rise! The noodle box is clean and easily portable. Once you open it, all you have to do is dump in the cucumber, ground peanuts, mushroom and chicken slices. It is delicious, cheap and fast," she said.



Homemade food is best

Che – cucumber yoghurt

"Summer is around the corner, and eating yogurt will make you thirstier," Che said. To combat the thirst, he came up with a recipe for cucumber yogurt.

"You can take a cucumber with you – more if you want to share with your colleagues – and a small knife. It is easy and convenient to make it," he said.



Basics of office dining

By Gan Tian

Luo Tianyu, a self-proclaimed office gourmet, shared tips on how to snack and dine in the one-square-meter cubicle.

- Snacking and dining are not allowed in some offices. If you have the misfortune to work in such a place, stop reading here.
- Rule number one: dining or snacking in the office requires workers to remember to share. Think about that: you have so many colleagues, and you are eating alone? If you do not share

your food, others will gossip to your boss about how lazy you are.

- If you bring something from home, make sure its smell does not travel more than a meter.

- Nuts may be good for your health, but crunching on them is extremely noisy. If you are looking for attention, that's a great way to get it!

- Drink water frequently.
- Recommendations include yogurt and chocolate.

- Last but not the least, work hard.

CFP Photos

5 Friday, May 2

Exhibition

Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom



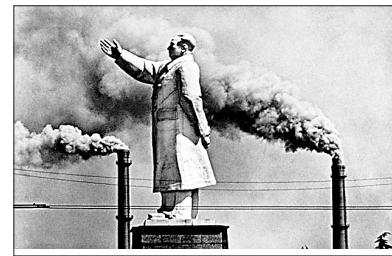
Where: Currents Art & Music, 9 Huan-tie Art District, Chaoyang

When: Wed - Sun 11 am - 6 pm, until June 22

Admission: Free

Tel: 5205 3805

Marc Riboud Solo Exhibition



Marc Riboud is a dedicated recorder of the country's fascinating and continuing evolution since the late fifties. From his pioneering works on the Chinese Cultural Revolution to the recent modernization and development, he has observed

and recorded the events that shaped present-day China.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 6 pm, until June 10

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9263

Flexible Destroy - Huang Hairong Solo Exhibition



Huang Hairong always uses the theme "water" in her works and has maintained the continuity of ideas throughout her creative process, from the Breathing series to the Image Consumption series.

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, until May 24

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 4793

6 Saturday, May 3

Exhibition

Revealing Traces - Sui Jianguo Solo Exhibition

Where: Joyart, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until May 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9788

Snow and Plum Blossom - Qiu Jie Solo Exhibition

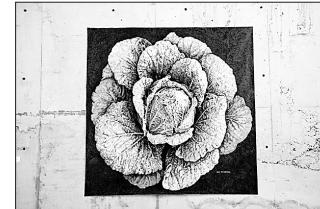
Where: Arario Beijing, Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until May 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3800

Blue Ocean



Where: Left-Right Art Museum, Left-Right International Art Zone, Fuhaocun Bei, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until May 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 8050 8215

Movie

Play Time

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

film. Street Life is his third documentary.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzhizhong Lu, Xicheng

When: 8 pm

Admission: 20-40 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711



Where: Magician Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 7 pm, until June 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9635, 8709 3557

Classic Collection by Contemporary Chinese Artists

Where: Zero Field Art Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6 pm, until May 26

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 5808

Movie

Street Life

Director Zhao Dayong studied art and worked as a professional painter, then advertiser and publisher before landing in

Stage in June

Concert

French Piano Festival 2008

Who: David Krasumer
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 6
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Tong Vfang Xien Qi Beijing Concert 2008

Who: Tong Vfang Xien Qi
Where: Fengtai Sports Center, Fengtai Beilu, Fengtai
When: 7:30 pm, June 13
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Sound of the Century

Who: The Chinese National Orchestra

Where: Chinese National Orchestra Concert Hall, 15 Xiaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, June 23-25
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6491 9081

The Philadelphia Orchestra Special Concert

Who: The Philadelphia Orchestra

Where: Minorities Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 2
Admission: 280-1,680 yuan
Tel: 66022530

Concert by The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Who: The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 19
Admission: 60-580 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

Sleeping Beauty

Who: The Royal English Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 21-23
Admission: 100-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Nutcracker

Who: The St. Petersburg Children Ballet Theatre of Russia

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-9
Admission: 60-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Swan Lake

Who: Royal Swedish Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-10
Admission: 100-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Fire Bird

Who: Ballet San Jose

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: June 13
Admission: 80-680 yuan
Tel: 6501 1854

(By Li Jing)

7 Sunday, May 4

Exhibition

Hetero Imagery - A Kind of Psychology of Urban Image

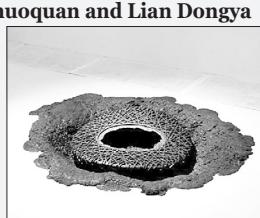
Where: 798 photo gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 6 pm until May 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

Fire Point - Joint Exhibition of Liu Zhuoquan and Lian Dongya



Where: Magician Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 7 pm, until June 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9635, 8709 3557

Classic Collection by Contemporary Chinese Artists

Where: Zero Field Art Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6 pm, until May 26

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 5808

Movie

Street Life

Director Zhao Dayong studied art and worked as a professional painter, then advertiser and publisher before landing in

Guarding your health on the job

By Han Manman

Are you spending one third to one half of your day at work in an office? If so, is this routine making you physically ill?

From the uncomfortable chairs and poor air quality to depression-inducing stress, your workplace might be worse for your health than you think.

You may be able to identify with some of the following office workers' problems. We will try to help you get to the root of these problems and provide ways that may help reduce them and promote good health and well-being.



Peeker pressure

Example: Luo Minhan, IT Company

I am so nervous about someone suddenly walking up and talking to me when I am staring at my computer. When we are talking, we need to make eye contact, but moving my eyes continually from my computer to converse with somebody makes them very dry. To compensate my body forces my eyes to water and it appears that I am crying. It's embarrassing.

Expert opinions: According to an ophthalmology study, computer users risk tired, red, burning eyes leading to blurred or double vision. People blink up to 60 percent less often when looking at a computer screen, causing dry-eye symptoms.

To protect yourself, look away from the screen and at a distant object at least every 30 minutes. Use eye drops sparingly if you feel eye strain. And if you wear reading glasses and work at a computer more than one hour a day, researchers recommend a pair of glasses especially designed for the distance between you and the screen.



The mouse that roars

Example: Lin Chen

It recently has become very difficult for me to communicate with people through MSN and emails, because my right hand is in constant pain and I don't know why! When client pressure is added to hand pain, I almost lose it.

Expert opinion: You may have a disease called "mouse hand," which results from repetitive use of the mouse without a break.

Although, there are many possible interventions, there is only one that is guaranteed to prevent your mouse from hurting you- reduce mouse use with keyboard shortcuts.

Common recommendations are to interrupt prolonged computer use for 5 minutes every hour and/or 10 seconds every 10 minutes.

The more frequently you take these breaks, the shorter the total break time needs to be.



Stress can depress

Example: Bai Yu, PR company

When I am in my office, I feel tired and sleepy, but when I get home, I feel very clear-headed.

Expert opinions: For many people, work dominates their lives. Some occupations are more stressful or pressured than others like IT, PR, and consulting industries.

Increased stress and depression have been linked to a number of chronic and non-chronic health issues like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and heart attacks. You can do this:

1 Get enough sleep. Rest is essential to good health and stress relief. With proper rest, not only will your body be better able to deal with long work hours, but your emotional outlook will improve as well.

2 Respect your limits. Long hours and little sleep, compounded with emotional stress are a disaster waiting to happen. It's better to call it quits, go home, rest and return the next day refreshed than to push yourself past your limits and risk illness or possible strain.

3 Take advantage of company services. Today many companies offer lunchtime yoga or exercise classes, or have a massage therapist on call for employees.



Large legs

Example: Zhao Geyu, editor of a fashion magazine

I suddenly discovered that I couldn't wear any of the pants I had worn in college three years ago. But my weight has not changed. What's wrong with my legs?

Expert opinion: A lot of office ladies throughout their workday may sit in their office chairs for eight hours or even more without any movement. That's dangerous to a healthy figure especially in the leg area.

Get out of your chair regularly. Stand when talking to colleagues, or talking on the phone. Take short walks as often as possible.

Do you cross your legs when sitting? Although we may believe that this is the lady-like elegant way to sit, this posture cuts circulation to your legs. If you do not want varicose veins to mar the beauty of your legs and compromise your health, uncross your legs. The best way to sit is to simply place both legs together with your feet flat on the floor, balancing your weight equally.



Back to back

Example: Zhang Min

I thought back pain was only common amongst the elder set, but I am far from old and suffer with back pain every day!

Expert opinions: Back pain is one of the most common work-related health problems, yet it can be easily prevented by ensuring that your working environment is back friendly.

The human body was not meant to stay in one constrained position for prolonged periods of time. It almost goes without saying that sitting for long periods of time in slouched, collapsed or unbalanced positions causes tension, fatigue and eventually, strain.

Make sure that your chair is comfortable and the height and arms can be adjusted. When you are sitting straight with your feet flat on the floor your arms should be at a 90-degree angle when typing on the computer.



Headaches and fatigue

Example: Zhang Xinghua, real estate Company

I always develop headaches and fatigue in the afternoon at work, and sometimes the headaches are very serious. But when I get to the hospital, the doctor says I have no physical problems.

Expert opinions: Having a computer screen positioned incorrectly can lead to headaches and fatigue. Researchers from the Kongsberg College of Engineering, Norway, quantified the long-term effects of screen positioning on 150 office workers. They found that employees who had their computer screens misaligned just 15 degrees experienced more pain and stiff necks resulting in more sick leave. To correctly position a screen, make sure that the top of the screen is at eye level.

Beyond the 8-hour work day

Serene and elegant atmosphere is a must

Xiao Xiao, film and television producer



The environment of the restaurant or coffee shop is very important to me. I like places with a serene and elegant atmosphere. Noisy places make me feel uncomfortable.

Dingdingxiang, a Hong Kong-style hot pot restaurant at Shinkong Place has a nice environment and classy interior. I like its crystal lamps. The sofa

chairs are also comfortable. The prices are comparatively high, but there are a lot of flavors like seafood and abalone, rib soup and Tom Yum Kong soup.

For cultural activities, I go to the 798 Factory area. Usually I just stroll there to look at the galleries and workshops. The atmosphere in 798 is lazy, but full of culture and wisdom. Each workshop and gallery has a different personality.

Nanluoguxiang is a good place to take a walk in your spare time. There are bars, book stores and clothing stores. The place is full of traditional Beijing culture. The street combines ancient and

By Jackie Zhang

Working is pressure and time. People are increasingly forced to get used to the reality of regular overtime. But what to do with your time off? Some people like to visit peaceful parks, work up a sweat in sport or go for a long walk. No matter what you choose, you have to get away from the droning of office work.

modern Beijing.

Another place I suggest girls go is the spa and sauna in D-Villa International Club. Although it is mostly for rich people, the cost of the spa and sauna is quite reasonable. On average, it costs each person about 100 yuan for spa and sauna service.

Dingdingxiang Hot Pot

Where: D6006, 6th floor, Shinkong Place, 87, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6530 5997

D-Villa International Club

Where: No 8, Xisanhuan Zhong Lu

Tel: 8802 8088



Nanluoguxiang retains an air of traditional Beijing.

CFP Photo



The atmosphere of 198 is laid back, but full of culture.

CFP Photo

Grilled chicken wings: party with friends

Edward Chen, software tester



Usually, I go home directly after work. But on occasion, I go to dinner with friends. There are two grilled chicken wing restaurants that we like to visit. One is at Xidan, and the other is near the Sihui Bridge.

The Xidan Chiku Grill Chicken Wing restaurant is quite famous. It is located in a lane next to the Xidan Book Center. The restaurant was renovated to look like a *siheyuan*. If you want to taste the chicken wings there, you will have to book a table at least a week in advance. Otherwise, you wait outside with dozens of groups for the restaurant to have an opening.

The chicken wings come in four flavors. Original recipe is a little sweet. There are also spicy wings where each side is covered by thick chili sauce.

Few diners can withstand the spicy flavor. The sauce recipe was designed by the restaurant's head chef. It is not available anywhere else. The other dishes are equally excellent.

The restaurant near Sihui Bridge is less famous than the Xidan location, but it also has long lines. The wings are great, and they also serve grilled steamed buns.

In the summer, grilled chicken wings and beer are a perfect match for casual parties.

Xidan Chiku Grilled Chicken Wings

Where: No 15, Zhongsheng Hutong, Xidan, Xicheng District

Tel: 6603 2605

Guomao Grilled Chicken Wings

Where: southeast corner of Sihui Bridge, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8580 6075

Sports is the theme for my spare time

Jared Chan, works at sina.com

The basketball court is my favorite place to spend my spare time. Even on work days, I go to play basketball with my friends.

The company books the basketball court at China Youth University for Political Sciences every day. Every Tuesday, my team and I will go to play after work. It is great to work up a sweat with my friends.

The basketball court is on the top floor of the building. Although the court is not big, it is well-maintained. The second floor is for badminton, and the ground floor has ping pong tables. The building is just for sports, and it has an exciting atmosphere that will compel you to participate. People outside the school can also book courts to exercise.

I also walk my dog Kobe every day. Sometimes when I get home from work late, I take Kobe for a walk. Usually we just walk and play near home. But sometimes we'll go to Happy Valley, a park by Fourth Ring Road. The ground is large. Many people like to go there after

supper, and the children come here to roller skate.

For parties, we often go to KTV. The Party World Flagship store at Huixin Dong Jie recently opened and is decorated luxuriously. There is an independent restaurant inside the building, and another two halls for buffet dining. The KTV is big, and you can start to sing immediately without waiting in the lobby for an empty room.

China Youth University for Political Sciences

Where: 25, Xisanhuan Bei Lu



Tel: 8856 7662

Party World (Huixin flagship store)

Where: No 4, Huixin Dong Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8857 6566



The basketball court at China Youth University for Political Sciences.

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20

Interesting owners

Xiao Baozhen, Beijing Today Art Museum employee



Unconditional Love Coffee

By He Jianwei

Luckily for me, there is a commercial street beside our museum. When I feel exhausted, I just go out and roam the street. Only some of the stores are open, and the place is not so popular, so it is a quiet and a peaceful place to relax.

On the west side of the street is FakeSpace, an exhibition room for young and avant-garde international artists. The space, opened last summer, is owned by a couple, Meng Jin and Fang Er.

Meng Jin is from the Chinese mainland and Fang Er is from Taiwan Province. Both are designers and artists and interested in graffiti.

They met in London, where they were studying the conditions of graffiti in London, Berlin and other European cities for three years. They made a book on graffiti in 2005, which is the first book written on the topic in Chinese.

The space was founded by FakeDesign Studio, which was set up by Fang Er in London in 2000. Meng joined in 2004 as an artist.

Their Beijing location has two floors. They kept everything in its original state and will not decorate the walls in their space. They are always glad to introduce their friends to me, and treat me with the green tea and desserts from Fang's hometown.

On the east side of the street is a coffee bar. I firstly was attracted by the name of the coffee bar: Unconditional Love Coffee.

The owner is Lawrence Chen, who studied how to make coffee in the US for four years.

When he learned to make coffee in the US, one of his friends made a cocktail called "Unconditional Love." He could not forget the taste of the cocktail and named his coffee bar after his friend's cocktail.

It is astonishing that the bartenders do not have salaries in the bar. They learned how to make coffee and cocktails from Chen. They said Chen is experienced in making coffee, and his coffee is quite different from the others you can get in Beijing.

The atmosphere of the coffee bar is dark red, which is not dull, but serene. Chen said he wanted to bring not only the typical American coffee, but American culture to China.

For 20 to 50 yuan's worth of coffee, I can sit in the bar and listen to the latest American music, including hip hop and Jazz.

FakeSpace

Where: Room 111, Building 3B, Pinggod, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5826 4512

Unconditional Love Coffee

Where: 3-A-110, Pinggod North, 3, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5826 3652



A shopping excursion is another way to unwind.

CFP Photo

Cost before environment

Jane Sui, freelancer

Most of my money is spent buying clothes. The markets opposite the Beijing Zoo are great places to shop, as long as you don't mind noise and crowds.

Although there are always crowds of people in the market, it is really an ideal place for shopping, and you can find almost every style of clothing. As long as you have enough time, you can spend a whole day here. Another advantage is that you can bargain with the vendors. Many clothes sold in stores are expensive, but they are actually bought from the markets and then sold at high prices. One shortcoming of buying clothes in the markets is you cannot usually try them on.

The Yan Sha Outlets shopping center on east Fourth Ring Road is where I usually go to for famous brands at low prices. There are several areas in the center with different brands. Everything is sold cheap, so if you like famous brands, then go there.

In my spare time, I like to eat vegetable dishes. A restaurant named Xiang-



yangxiaozhu at Meishuguan Hou Jie is quiet and clean. The interior decorations are simple, and the fragrant candles on each table give you a cozy feeling.

Clothes markets

Where: opposite to the Beijing Zoo, Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Yan Sha Outlets

Where: 9, Dongsihuan Nan Lu
Tel: 6739 5678, 6739 5803

Xiangyangxiaozhu Restaurant

Where: Meishuguan Hou Jie, Dongcheng District, opposite to Beijing Neimenggu Hotel



Beijing Today Art Museum has a new side street with art and bars.

Photo by Yu Long

Cross Cultural Awareness in the Workplace



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training
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Beijing Chengdu Dalian Guangzhou Hefei Nanjing Qingdao Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Wuhan

If you want to have a strong team with clear communication channels then it is essential that they understand each other's motivation.

By Naomi Saunders

The next time you are at your desk, take a look around the office. What kind of people do you see? You may well have been surrounded by people 10 years ago who looked just like you, spoke the same native language, understood the same culture, but in this age of globalization you are more likely to be surrounded by a mixture of people, both Chinese and foreign expatriates.

Diversity in the workplace can benefit your organization by sharing skills and expertise. However, building a strong multicultural team is fraught with difficulties. Beyond language differences lies a second barrier to effective communication: cultural differences. This can be seen every day in an individual's work behavior in the office, and can relate to different attitudes toward authority, behavior in meetings and time-management amongst others.

Let's look at an example of how differences in business culture can lead to problems.

Last year, a German company reported tremendous tension in its Beijing office caused by Chinese employees' loud mobile phone ring-tones disturbing the work of German employees. The Chinese staff were unaware of the problem, and the German staff did not want to be rude and complain, so the tension contin-

ued for months leading to a thoroughly unpleasant work environment. With some cultural knowledge, understanding and compromise this situation need never have occurred.

Today, managers have a responsibility to avoid conflict and look for ways to help staff gain an understanding of one another in order to function effectively as a team. As Stephen Rhinesmith states in A Manager's Guide to Globalization "Diversity will be the engine that

"Expatriate staff arriving in China may not understand the Chinese concept of *mianzi*, or "face", and may inadvertently embarrass and offend a colleague."

drives the corporation of the 21st Century. Successful global managers will be able to manage diversity for the innovative and competitive edge of their corporations."

So how can you help your team and company reach this goal?

For workers to accept cultural differences they must first understand them. If you want to have a strong team with clear communication channels then it is essential they understand each other's motivations. For example, expatriate staff arriving in China may not understand the Chinese concept of *mianzi*, or "face", and may inadvertently embarrass and offend a colleague. Likewise Chinese staff may make a Western colleague feel uncomfortable by at lunchtime asking about their private life or commenting on their appearance.

You may find that the best way to address this issue to provide a course

of cross-cultural awareness training for all staff. This will provide a strong foundation of awareness and show your staff that this is a priority for your company. On the other hand, there are a number of other, less-structured methods which can be used to help cement formal training.

Some companies use lunchtime as a powerful opportunity to share a meal, share opinions and eventually share culture. Usually at lunchtime staff will disappear to eat in small groups, most often with colleagues of the same age, position and cultural background. Consider instead providing lunch for all employees in-house. The cost of providing a simple, healthy lunch will be returned with more efficient teamwork and happy employees. Encourage staff to share favorite books, TV shows and movies with an in-house library stocked by employees.

Seating arrangements can also considerably influence the relationships in the office. We tend to chat with those around us so consider positioning staff in multicultural groups. The traditional set-up with the manager seated away from the staff inside a glass box could also be revised to create a more egalitarian and harmonious workplace.

By being aware of the issues at hand and thinking of some creative solutions, managers can create a dynamic and varied team with a wide range of skills. A happy, trusting and harmonious team will ultimately push your organization forward with innovation and success.

Naomi Saunders is Events Organizer of ClarkMorgan Corporate Trainer



CFP Photo

Outdoors

Heavenly hills and lovely lanes

The trail pulls together five scouting trips and covers a wide range of countryside scenery, including country trails and lanes, pine forests, orchards, farmland, a reservoir, the Stonewall village and a chicken farm.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, May 3

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 13910025516
(reservations are essential)

Confucius Temple and Imperial Academy

Built in 1306, this building was split between a Confucian temple (Kong Miao) and the academy (Guozijian), where civil servants used to train for the exams that would launch them into court life. The Confucius Temple on the left of the complex consists of four courtyards and houses with 198 stone tablets bearing the names of more than 50,000 scholars who passed the imperial exams during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

Where: Meet in front of the Confucius Temple (13 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng)

When: 2 pm – 5 pm, May 4

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)

Hotel

Shangri-La's "Road to Beijing" Festival

Road to Beijing is a two-week celebration of Chinese cuisine, culture and entertainment held from May 15 to 30, in seventeen Shangri-La city and resort hotels from Muscat to Sydney to Beijing.

Many of Shangri-La's signature Shang Palace restaurants will host culinary activities, showcasing authentic Chinese cuisine and its modern interpretations. Experts will conduct interactive classes on Chinese cooking, wine tasting and tea culture. Cultural icons such as a traditional Szechuan Face Changer, Chinese martial artist and paper-cutting masters will perform in the hotels.

For more information on the scheduled activities and reservations, please access the website at Shangri-La.com.

Dining

Super steak

Unique dishes are made from smooth and buttery Australian Wagyu beef and accompanied by side dishes from polenta to grilled portobello mushrooms.

Where: Prego and Jewel, the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

Open: 11 am – 11:30 pm (Prego),

11:30 am – 10:30 pm (Jewel)

Tel: 6629 7815 (Prego),
6629 7820 (Jewel)

Asparagus galore!

It's the season of asparagus again! Different asparagus dishes, such as one with Hollandaise sauce and new potatoes are offered every day for lunch and dinner this May.

Where: Die Kochmuzen, 718, Building 7, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dong-sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5869 3830

Nightlife

Narakam Beijing concert

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 8 pm, May 2

Admission: 40 yuan (door), 30 yuan (advance/students)

Tel: 6425 5677

The Core

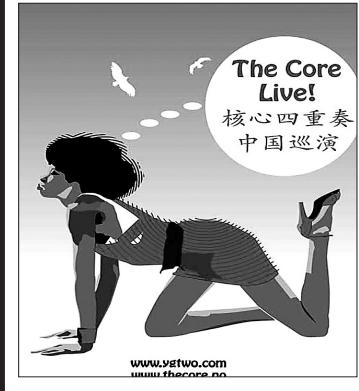
Norway's The Core is a great jazz act and known for their high-energy live sets. The band plays music in a style reminiscent of John Coltrane, combined with contemporary rock and funk grooves.

Where: The Imperial Granary

When: 7:30 pm, May 8

Admission: 580-980 (including dinner)

Tel: 6275 8452



If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Wake up in class or become a lowly “office boy”

By Gan Tian

When I was hanging out with classmates after graduation, some kept talking about their salaries, which was totally boring.

“I am still paid only 3,000 yuan per month!” Zhang Rui screamed. She was an A-student in our class. “It’s unbelievable. I talked to my boss but she still refused to give me a raise, so I quit,” she said. “Come on, 3,000? She must have thought I was an office girl or something.”

“Aren’t you an office girl?” Deng Cui said half-jokingly, “I mean, you are still sitting in the office, and you don’t have to go out to cover events like Gan Tian, right? So you are still an office girl!”

After Deng said this, all of our classmates laughed out loud. We all knew that Deng was the

one who consistently skipped class during college and never paid attention during lectures. No wonder his boss paid him no attention or money.

“Why do you laugh?” he was still confused.

“Did you ever listen to our teacher, Ms Liu, carefully once?” I explained everything. “She taught us in the Language and Culture course that an ‘office girl or boy’ does not mean someone who works in an office. An office boy or girl is a young person hired to do the less important jobs around the workplace, wherever that might be. Not necessarily in an actual office.”

Our frustrated friend, Deng, was totally embarrassed, saying, “If only I hadn’t skipped classes at college. Now it seems I am an office boy! I am paid only 2,000 yuan a month, and am doing minor tasks like repairing computers, carrying heavy things and count-

ing the money.”

We could not shut him up now. His grievance list unfolded like a grocery list.

It suddenly occurred to me that many words are related to the base word, “office.” Someone “in office” could relate to a politician. An “officer” might be a policeman or someone in the armed forces. And then there’s a person who may be considered an “official,” denoting a person in a position of power and responsibility or as an adjective, the word might describe a document that is recognized as very final and approved. Sometimes, the word “official” means something that is made known to the public. For example, “Their engagement is not official yet.”

But, regrettably, for my friend, Deng, an “office boy” meant only one thing, an employee of very low status who is paid a low salary for doing unimportant lowly tasks around an office. Maybe Deng should have been a little more attentive in class.



CFP Photo

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

Danger Please don’t away

By Derrick Sobodash

Warning and danger signs are very rarely done right here in China. More Chinglish pages feature text from simple warning signs than any other source, and this week is no exception.

This red-on-white large sign is located by the lake in the theme park on the way to the Dingling Tombs. Its mangled English reads “Danger Please don’t away.”

It starts off well, and then the message just derails, tempting its readers with the siren song “don’t away ...” to fall off the retaining wall into the big drink.

While the danger part is right, the second half of this sign fails miserably to

convey the Chinese meaning. To go away is the exact opposite of kaojin, which means to draw near or approach. The way this sign is written, it sounds like it is asking readers either not to leave it, or to go closer to it.

Rather than “Please don’t [go] away,” the sign could write “Please don’t come near.” This would be equal to the Chinese text, and would be sufficient for preventing readers from falling into the lake.

Of course, fewer words are better: signs should be direct, harsh and to the point. Consider scrapping such a literal translation and writing something like “Danger! Keep back!”

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you’re planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. With each chair averaging 2,000 yuan each

Obviously, the writer has become redundant in his use of the word “each” twice. You may say: “With each chair averaging 2,000 yuan,” or “With the chairs averaging 2,000 yuan each.” Similarly try: “With the chairs averaging 2,000 yuan apiece.” Many wise choices here to solve the problem.

2. Not super, or natural

The proper English expression needed here to present this idea properly is “neither, nor” or “either, or.” You may say: “Neither super, nor natural.” You must never say: “Not super, or natural.” The Chinese beginners tend to commit a similar mistake when using “also” in a negative sentence. The more idiomatic English requires you to say “either” in the negative form. For example, “He will not go to Shanghai either.” You never say, “He will not go to Shanghai also,” though American English seemingly ignores this rule.

3. The reason it has limited circulation

Reason means an explanation or justification of an act, a cause or a motive. When it is in the form of a noun clause stating the specifics of the cause or the motive, you will invariably have to use the word “why” following the noun “reason.” For instance, in this sentence, you will have to say: The reason why it has limited circulation. The “why” clause is a noun clause modifying the noun “reason” as an attributive.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. With each chair averaging 2,000 yuan each

Yes, you are seeing double in this sentence and it is never a pretty thing, grammatically. Once again, redundancy has reared its ugly head giving us double trouble. The word, “each” in the example sentence has been used one too many times. There are several ways to correct this problem. Let’s pick one. The simplest fix would be, “With each chair averaging 2,000 yuan.” If you adjust the sentence properly, grammar-wise, by removing of the “each” words, you will be absolutely correct. Some days, English can be as easy as pie, but other days, a living hell for the beginner. This is not one of those days.

2. Not super, or natural

Although this sounds and looks cool, it is bad English. The words, “neither” and “nor” must come into play here to correct this grammatical car wreck. You must say, “Neither super, nor natural.” Isn’t it lovely how proper English grammar, especially alliteration, trips off the tongue? Present this idea in this fashion and your English professor will indeed believe you are supernatural.

3. The reason it has limited circulation

Now you might think that this sentence has said enough to explain itself, but you are so wrong. The word “reason” is a very insecure little fellow and needs a little more word support to make itself clearer. You may ask why and by doing that you have hit the grammatical nail squarely on the head. “Why” is the grammatical security blanket this word needs wrapped snugly around it to cement its meaning. The sentence must read, “The reason why it has limited circulation.” Congratulations, you why’s guy, you.



Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007)

Movie of the Week

Have you ever tried to find something magical and special? Do you want to watch a wonderful movie that will deliver these elements? "Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium" will surprise you. Just follow along guided by Zach Helm's imagination and travel to a miraculous toy world.

Synopsis

Molly Mahoney, played by Natalie Portman, is the awkward and insecure manager of Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, the strangest, most fantastic and wonderful toy store in the world. But when Mr. Magorium, played by Dustin Hoffman, the 243 year-old eccentric who owns the store, bequeaths the property to Molly, dark and ominous changes begin to take over the once remarkable Emporium which present the new owner with incredible challenges.

Scene 1 Eric's private prosecution – the beginning of the story

Boy: This is one of my favorite stories of all time even though it begins in a basement⁽¹⁾. I'm gonna tell it the way it was written by this guy, Bellini, who lives underneath the amazing, the remarkable Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium. And, yes, he sleeps with a dolly. Bellini's job is to build all the books for all the kids who come to the Emporium⁽²⁾. But it is also to chronicle the life of Mr. Magorium himself. Mr. Magorium once made toys for Napoléon, beat Abraham Lincoln at hopscotch and holds the current record for time spent upside down⁽³⁾. There were those who called Magorium a genius. My mom called him an eccentric⁽⁴⁾. And this one guy from Detroit inexplicably called him "Steve." But Magorium's story was reaching its final chapters. That's OK, all stories, even the ones we love, must eventually come to an end and when they do, it's only an opportunity for another story to begin. So the beginning of the end begins with a chapter called, "Molly Mahoney's First." Molly Mahoney was the manager of the Emporium, Mr. Magorium's apprentice⁽⁵⁾, and my only friend. In the mornings, Mahoney would play her piano, attempting to finish her very first concerto, but she never could find the right notes. When she was younger, everyone thought she was a musical genius, a brilliant pianist, and she believed them. But now, as an adult, she wasn't so sure. I don't know

why grown-ups don't believe what they did when they were kids. I mean, aren't they supposed to be smarter? What Mahoney needed was the opportunity to prove to herself that she was something more than she believed. And that opportunity was about to appear. And so that's how this chapter begins ... with my hat getting stuck.

Scene 2: Magical mobile phone – in the store

Woman: Oh, excuse me. Hello. Uh, how much are you asking for that fish mobile up there?

Magorium: Well, that's \$50.

Woman: 50! Don't you think that's a little high, just



for a mobile?

Magorium: Well, if you notice, they're fresh fish.

Woman: Uh ...

Magorium: If you don't want to spend that much, we do have that fish mobile over there for only \$17. But those are not fresh fish. And they're high in cholesterol⁽⁶⁾.

Scene 3: A new member

Henry: Hello, excuse me, miss. Hi.

Mahoney: Um ... You're really well-dressed for a shadow puppeteer.

Henry: No, no. I'm Henry Weston, the accountant. Here

for an interview.

Mahoney: Ah, hello. My name is Mahoney. I am the store manager. Pleasure to meet you.

Henry: I have to admit, when the agency sent me, I had no idea that this was a toy store.



Mahoney: Shh! If these kids found out this was a toy store, we'd have a madhouse on our hands. That was a joke.

Henry: I know.

Magorium: OK. Uh, you probably want to speak to Mr. Magorium. Why don't you give me a second.

Magorium: Ah, greetings. Edward Magorium, toy impresario⁽⁷⁾, wonder aficionado⁽⁸⁾, avid shoe-wearer. You're here for the accounting position.

Henry: Yes. Henry Weston.

Magorium: Mm-hmm. Name the Fibonacci serie from its 11th to its 16th integer⁽⁹⁾.

Mahoney: Hello?

Grandma?

Henry: Uh, 89, 144, 233, 377, 61, 0?

Magorium: Perfect. The number four – do we really need it?

Henry: If you like squares, you do.

Magorium: Oh, I like



squares. Good. Now, the hot dog to hot dog bun ratio – why, for the love of mustard, are there never enough buns?

Henry: Extra hot dogs.

Magorium: Yes, but why?

Henry: In case you drop a couple.

Magorium: What kind of insufferable fool drops a hot dog?

Henry: Anything can happen, sir.

Magorium: Anything can happen, hmm? How absolutely true. You're exactly the mutant I'm looking for. You're hired.

Henry: What?

Magorium: You're hired!

Henry: That's it, huh?

Magorium: That's all I need.

Mahoney: Uh, sir ...

Magorium: Don't you agree, Mahoney?

Mahoney: No, not exactly.

Magorium: Perfect. I've heard great things about you.

Henry: Really?

Vocabulary:

1. Basement: a room or rooms in a building, partly or completely below ground level.

2. Emporium: a large shop or store

3. Upside down: something in a position where the top is interchanged with the bottom.

4. Eccentric: considered by others to be strange or unusual

5. Apprentice: a young person who works for an employer for a fixed period of time in order to learn the particular skills needed for the job.

6. Cholesterol: a substance found in blood, fat and most tissues of the body.

7. Impresario: a person who arranges plays in the theatre or other venues, especially a person who manages a theatre, opera or ballet company.

8. Aficionado: a person who likes a particular sport, activity or subject very much and knows a lot about it.

9. Integer: a whole number such as 3 or 4 but not 3.5

10. Top-notch: excellent, of the highest quality.

(By Sun Jina)

Magorium: No, not yet, but I'm sure I will. Oh! I see you've brought your abacus along. Top-notch⁽¹⁰⁾. Come along. I'll show you the store. Bum, bum, bum, The store and then I'll show you my office ...